DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 352 888 HE 026 088

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TITLE Access to Higher Education in the European Community: Synthesis Report (Volume 1) and Country Reports (Volume 2).
INSTITUTION Commission of the European Communities, Brussels (Belgium).
PUB DATE Jul 92
NOTE 230p.; For a related document, see HE 026 087.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Information Analyses (070) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC10 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Access to Education; *College Admission; College Students; Data Collection; Educational Demand; Educational Finance; Enrollment; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Questionnaires; Student Costs; Student Mobility; *Study Abroad; Transfer Students
IDENTIFIERS *European Community

ABSTRACT

This report examines, country by country, the present state of student access to higher education institutions in the Member States of the European Community (EC), as well as the elements which affect access directly and the elements which can potentially have an effect on access. Volume 1 of the report gives an overview of the methods of data collection and discusses each of the elements affecting educational access for EC exchange and transfer students as well as national students. These elements are as follows: the entry requirements and limitations; the recognition of foreign certificates, degrees, and periods of study; the application and registration procedures; language requirements; tuition fees; student grants; entry and residence regulations; health insurance; cost of living; accommodations; and academic and social guidance. Volume 2 of the report presents information detailing each country's situation relative to each of the elements affecting educational access. A section of "final remarks" from volume 1 discusses the imbalance of student flow and the financing of higher education, unequal entry requirements, language barriers, the lack of information on foreign EC students, and the problem of the non-university sector of higher education. Appendices include a checklist for governmental and academic representatives to help guide them in assessing educational access within their own organizations and countries as it applies to national, foreign EC, short-term EC, and transfer students. Data for the following countries is included: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. (GLR)

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TASK FORCE
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ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

VOL. I

(SYNTHESIS REPORT)

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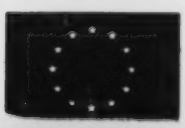

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ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

VOL. I

(SYNTHESIS REPORT)

This report was prepared for the Commission by J.F.M. de Jonge and I.G. Dillo of the Institute for Policy Research, Leiden (NL). The information it contains does not necessarily reflect either the position or views of the Commission of the European Communities.

Brussels, July 1992.

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INTRODUCTION

Internationalisation is the keyword in higher education for the 1990s. This orientation can be explained by both internal and external factors. Within higher education there exists a long-standing interest in establishing and maintaining a learning environment in which knowledge is advanced through exchange among scholars with diverse perspectives and experiences. This traditional motivation remains an important factor, although it has taken on a more pragmatic orientation.
Secondly, internationalisation is linked to policies and developments outside higher education. Student mobility has long been an element of foreign policy and this aspect is being strengthened. But there are new developments that have given rise to a new emphasis in foreign student exchange. This emphasis is economic, as well as cultural and social.[1]
As 1992 approaches and with the establishment of one single European student and job market symbolizing the central dynamic of the European Community in the years ahead, the Community has a greater need than ever for students and workers who have acquired a sound experience of education and training with a European dimension.[2]

At present the legal situation with respect to student mobility within the European Community is clear: EC students have a right to go and study wherever they like. Legally this situation has been made clear by several EC-laws and court cases. The base is formed by article 7 of the Treaty of Rome, stating: "Within the scope of application of this Treaty, and without prejudice to any special provisions contained therein, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited". Another very important EC-law is the directive (90/366/EEC) on the right of residence for students. The main provision of this directive which will be brought into force by 30 June 1992 is that member states should facilitate access to vocational training by granting the right of residence to other EC member states nationals wishing to undertake a study course. However, the following three conditions should be kept:

- to insure the host national authorities (by declaration or any alternative means) that the student has sufficient resources to avoid becoming a burden on the social assistance system;
- to be enrolled in a recognized educational establishment for the principal reason of following a vocational training course;
- to be covered by a sickness insurance scheme for all risks in the host member state.

Article 3 of the directive provides clearly that the directive does not establish any right to payment of maintenance grants by the host member state. Furthermore, students will be provided with a residence permit for EC member state nationals, but this is limited to the duration of the course taken.[3]
The most famous court case is the case of the French student Françoise Gravier, who wanted to study at the Liège Academy for Fine Arts but refused to pay the high Belgian

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[1] International seminar on higher education and the flow of foreign students. New patterns, new approaches (working document) (Paris 1990).

[2] Higher education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The student handbook (6th edition 1990).

[3] Official Journal of the European Communities, 13.7.90 (No. L 180/30): Council directive of 28 June 1990 on the right of residence for students.

tuition fees for foreign students (1985). The specific question raised by this case was couched in the following terms: is a European Community national entitled to access to educational establishments in the territory of another member state on the same terms as nationals of that state, if he or she comes to that state for the sole purpose of taking a course of study there and can claim a residence permit neither as a migrant worker nor as the member of a migrant worker's family? In other words, the issue at stake was the right of students to freedom of movement within the European Community. The Court stated that any student interested in specific training has the right of access to educational establishments in any member state on the same terms as its own nationals. The precedent set by the Gravier case undoubtedly facilitated freedom of movement for persons within the Community.
Other cases that made the legal situation with respect to student mobility clear were, among others, the Barra case (1985) and the Blaizot case (1986). Recently another important court case was held concerning non-discrimination of children of migrant workers. The Italian student Carmina di Leo, being the child of a migrant worker who lived and worked in Germany for 25 years, decided to study medicine in Italy, because of the strict German numerus clausus regulations with respect to medicine. The German government refused to give her a national grant, the "Bafög". Carmina di Leo protested against this discriminatory situation and won the case in 1990.
All these new EC-laws and precedent-setting court cases face the individual member states with a different situation of operation. The laws have implications for the countries and although legally the situation is clear, there are still many financial and practical problems to be solved. One of them is the imbalance of student flows within the Community. This imbalance can be explained by language barriers, but also by the extent of flexibility of the national higher education systems, varying from strictly selective to completely open systems. The financial issue that arises from this imbalance of student flows is the question who has to pay for the education of foreign EC students.

Student mobility occurs within different frameworks. In the first place there are of course the so-called "free floaters", students who decide to study abroad on their own initiative. Secondly, a number of students go abroad within the framework of bilateral agreements on a national, institutional, or even faculty level. And finally there is the possibility of studying abroad within the framework of European Community action programmes. These programmes are intended to contribute to the European dimension in initial training through increased student mobility.
In 1987 COMETT (the European Community programme on cooperation between universities and enterprises regarding training in the field of technology) was set up with the objective of promoting transborder cooperation between institutions of higher education and industry on a Community level. Three years later LINGUA (the European Community programme for the promotion of the teaching and learning of foreign languages within the Community) became operational. Improved foreign language teaching has to dismantle the communication barriers hindering the free movement of people, goods, services and capital throughout the European Community.
In 1987 the Council of Europe also adopted ERASMUS (the European Community action scheme for the mobility of university students). The Erasmus programme was established with the following main objectives in mind:

- to substantially increase the number of students undertaking an integrated period of study in another Member. State, thereby creating an enhanced supply of graduate

manpower with direct experience of the economic and social life of other Member States;

- to promote wide-ranging and intensive cooperation between the higher education institutions in all Member States;
- to promote the mobility of teaching staff, as a means of enhancing the international potential of the universities and improving the quality of training provided with a view to supporting the competitiveness of the Community in the world market;
- to strengthen the interaction between citizens in different Member States with a view to consolidating the concept of a people's Europe.[1]

Internationalisation and student mobility have thus become major issues in the field of higher education. However, this does not mean that all obstacles concerning access to higher education have already been removed. Apart from obvious difficulties like language and accommodation, the main impediment is formed by the different structures of the systems of higher education in the European Community. At a bilateral conference on higher education and research in Kerkrade in June 1990 the Dutch Minister of Education and Science, Ritzen, stated that on the one hand countries have to cooperate as much as possible, whereas on the other hand the variety in higher education has to be preserved. According to Ritzen, boundless higher education should become self-evident.[2]

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[1]Higher education in the European Community. The student handbook (1990).

[2]Staatscourant no.124, 1.7.91.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT: OBJECTIVES, SOURCES, METHODOLOGY AND CONTENTS

Objectives

The European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (ERASMUS) was adopted by the Council on 15 June 1987 and amended by the Council on 14 December 1989. Its main activity is organizing the exchange of students embarking on recognised periods of study ranging from three months to a year in a Member State other than their own. Some 35,000 Erasmus students are expected to study abroad in the academic year 1990-1991 and there are 1748 Inter-university Cooperation Programmes (ICPs).

In the document "Experiences with the implementation of the Erasmus programme 1987-1989" some factors are stated which decisively influence the success of the Erasmus programme. After the first priority i.e. enough means to ensure continuity, promoting cooperation between Member States and academic recognition of periods of study are stated as crucial factors for success.

This makes an inventory of the rules and practices concerning access to higher education necessary, both in terms of the actual rules and regulations and the planned policy in the near future. Within the framework of Erasmus and within the overall context of the further development of higher education cooperation within the European Community, in 1990 the Commission sought technical assistance for the execution of a study on access to higher education in the Member States of the European Community.[1]

The purpose of this study is to produce an up-to-date, comprehensive and comparative review of present access policies to higher education institutions in the Member States of the European Community. The study will pay attention to the rules and procedures of access to higher education of national students and of students from other Member States of the European Community.[2]

It will distinguish between the admission of students offering entrance qualifications of the Member States concerned and those wishing to transfer with entrance or intermediate qualifications from the educational system of another Member State.

Sources

The relevant information needed for this report is to be found on various organizational levels. A distinction can also be made between the two parties involved, namely the world of government and the world of academics. The government institutions are usually able to supply adequate information on official rules and regulations concerning access to higher education, except if this is the responsibility of the higher education institution itself. The academic representatives can give insight into the "de facto" position with regard to access.

The first organizational level consists of the European Community itself. The Erasmus Bureau has an overall insight into the workings of the Erasmus programme and student mobility. Furthermore the Erasmus Advisory Committee (EAC) has proved to be an important commission. The EAC is composed of representatives of the respective member states. Each state sends at least one representative from the government and one from the academic world to the EAC.

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[1] Invitation to tender No TFHR/06/90 concerning evaluation studies of the Erasmus programme and comparative studies on access and mobility in higher education in the European Community. Terms of reference.

[2] J.F.M. de Jonge, H. Weening, Research proposals for the evaluation of the Erasmus programme and comparative studies on access and mobility in higher education in the European Community (Institute for Policy Research 1990).

Secondly information is to be found on the national level of each member state. Within the framework of this research project, important government institutions include the respective Ministries of Education, the National Grant Awarding Authorities (the NGAAs) and the National Academic Recognition Information Centres (the NARICs). The higher education institutions and the foreign students themselves represent the academic world.

Methodology

After an initial survey of the broader framework of the research topic, requests for published documentation from the Ministries of Education of the various member states were sent out by telephone and by mail. Although this action did not yield much result, it still gave the initial impetus to the project.

The most significant aspect was the visits to the twelve member states of the European Community. In each country three different categories of key-informants were interviewed. In the first place we spoke with government representatives. They were able to give us an overall survey of the official rules and regulations concerning access to higher education. In most cases these government representatives were civil servants of the Ministries of Education, responsible for international relations. We also interviewed staff members of the NGAAs of the different countries.

Secondly we spoke with academic representatives, who gave us an impression of the actual practical workings of access to higher education. We interviewed staff members of higher education institutions, in most cases international relations officers or professors with practical experience concerning student exchanges. Thirdly, we spoke with the foreign students themselves. In each country we visited at least two different institutions for higher education. The geographical position formed the main selection criterion: we chose an institution both inside and outside the capital. If possible, we visited a university and a non-university institution for higher education.

Three different sources were used in the selection of informants:

- the government representatives of the Erasmus Advisory Committee;
- the contacts of the international Erasmus Student Network (ESN);
- general information and addresses published in the Student Handbook (6th edition 1990).

Potential informants were approached by telephone. All appointments were confirmed in writing. Prior to the interview, the informants received a list of discussion topics and a brochure containing information on the Institute for Policy Research and the research project (see appendices I and II). This brochure was translated in all nine official languages of the European Community.

In April and May 1991, the twelve member states were visited. Each visit took at least three full days. The purpose of these visits was twofold:

- in-depth interviews with key-informants (see appendix III);
- collection of written documentation at different institutions.

Contents

When studying access to higher education a number of elements have to be taken into consideration. The list of topics, stated below, were the main criteria for the whole project. It was the basis on which the interviews were held and determined the structure of both the country reports and the synthesis report.

A. ELEMENTS WHICH AFFECT ACCESS DIRECTLY

1. entry requirements and limitations

In order to be admitted to an institution of higher education, students must satisfy certain requirements. First and foremost they should have the proper secondary school qualifications. In some cases, they have to pass an entrance examination or an interview before being admitted.

Some subject areas or courses are bound by numerus clausus regulations. Foreign students may also be confronted with these regulations or other limitations.

2. recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

Academic recognition is a relevant aspect of student mobility. The recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and, most of all, periods of study is a prerequisite for successful student exchanges. Sometimes these regulations are not very clear and there may be discrepancies between the rules and regulations on paper and the situation in practice.

3. application and registration

The application and registration of foreign students takes a lot of time and organization. In some cases language barriers can cause extra problems and delays.

4. language requirements

Language problems are one of the most important impediments with respect to international student exchange. Some EC member states attempt to avoid these problems by submitting all foreign students to a proficiency test before allowing them to study. Most countries offer language courses for foreigners.

5. tuition fees

Within the European Community, the amount of tuition fees varies considerably from one member state to another. In some countries, foreign students are required to pay higher fees than the national students.

6. student grants

The amount of money a foreign student has at his or her disposal is an important factor in the student's decision whether or not to study abroad. In this respect, the various national grant systems within the European Community play an important role.

7. entrance and residence regulations

Each country has its own specific entrance formalities. These regulations depend on the nationality of the foreigner and the purpose of the visit.

8. health insurance

In most cases health insurance is compulsory. Sometimes foreign students have automatic access to a national health scheme.

B. ELEMENTS WHICH CAN POTENTIALLY AFFECT ACCESS

9. cost of living

The cost of living in the host country might influence the student's decision to study abroad, if it is much higher than in the home country.

10. accommodation

Student accommodation is difficult to find in virtually all member states of the European Community. In some cases, foreign students receive accommodation on campus, in other cases they have to depend on the open market. Accommodation costs are one of the most important items on the foreign student's budget.

11. academic and social guidance

Guidance is necessary before and during the student's stay abroad. The student needs a lot of information on the academic and social aspects of his stay abroad. This information has to be supplied by both the home and the host institution.
A lot of institutions have international student clubs or networks and special advice centres for foreigners. In some countries, foreign students can also benefit from discounts on public transport, for cultural events etc.

The twelve country reports were written in May and June and were based on interviews and collected documentation. The reports were sent to one or more experts in different member states to avoid errors and misinterpretations. Finally the country reports formed the basis for this synthesis report.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT: DEFINITIONS

Both in the country reports and the synthesis report univocal terminology has been used. For the purpose of clarity, the following is a list of definitions of the key-concepts of this study.

higher education:
tertiary, both university and non-university education.

institution for higher education:
institutions for both university and non-university higher education.

foreign students:
foreign students, both from inside and outside the European Community.

foreign EC students:
foreign students from other member states of the European Community.

foreign non-EC students:
foreign students from countries outside the European Community.

foreign EC students with national qualifications:
foreign EC students, who have a secondary school-leaving certificate of the country in which they follow a higher education course; for example a Greek student with a German "Abitur", studying dentistry in Germany.

transfer students:
students who follow and finish a full higher education course or part of a course in another member state of the European Community.

(short term) exchange students:
students who follow part of a higher education course in another member state of the European Community; the stay abroad takes three to twelve months and is integrated in their normal study programme.

"free floaters":
foreign EC short term students, who study abroad on an indivudual basis and on their own initiative.
the term *"free movers"* is the Erasmus term for students receiving Erasmus support outside an ICP.

OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

This report has the same structure as the interviews with key-informants in the different member states and the country reports:

A. elements which affect access directly:
   1. entry requirements and limitations.
   2. recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study.
   3. application and registration.
   4. language requirements.
   5. tuition fees.
   6. student grants.
   7. entry and residence regulations.
   8. health insurance.

B. elements which can potentially affect on access:
   9. cost of living.
   10. accommodation.
   11. academic and social guidance.

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

1.1. Entry requirements

To gain access to higher education, students within the European Community have to meet certain entry requirements. In theory these requirements can be made up of three different elements:

- secondary school leaving-qualifications;
- entrance examinations;
- personal interviews.

In general, the personal interview does not seem to be used as an entrance requirement to higher education in the European Community very often. Only in a few isolated instances are interviews held. For example, the French "Grande Ecole du Commerce" in Paris selects its candidates by means of a written and oral examination and a personal interview. In ireland, national students wanting to study arts or teacher training are interviewed. Finally in the United Kingdom some individual departments want to have an interview with their future national students to test the student's choice.

In practice roughly three different combinations of these elements are to be found within the Community:

I. only secondary school-leaving qualifications;
II. secondary school-leaving qualifications and in certain cases entrance examinations;
III. secondary school-leaving qualifications and entrance examinations in all cases.

1.1.1. Entry requirements for national students

Table 1 Entry requirements for national students within the EC

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I		*					*		*	*		*
II	*		*			*		*				
III				*	*						*	

National students of all member states have to have a certain secondary school-leaving certificate to be admitted to higher education. In most countries the secondary school-leaving requirements are the same for both university and non-university higher education.

Only in the Netherlands and in Germany is a clear distinction made.[1] In the Netherlands, universities are open to national students who hold a pre-university school diploma, the

[1]By Germany we mean West-Germany if we are talking about a period before the reunion, if not, Germany in principle means East- and West-Germany.

"VWO" diploma (Voortgezet Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs). The minimum length of this course is six years. Non-university higher education institutions require a diploma of senior general secondary education, the "HAVO" diploma (Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs). This course lasts five years.
A German student wanting to be admitted to the higher educational system in his country also needs a secondary school diploma. For entrance to university an "Abitur" (after 13 years of education) is required and for access to a "Fachhochschul" the student has to have a "Reifezeugnis" (after 12 years of education).
In Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom a proper secondary school-leaving certificate is the only requirement needed to gain access to the higher education system. One small exception must be mentioned here: in the United Kingdom the universities of Cambridge and Oxford still use entrance examinations. However, these examinations are likely to disappear in the near future.

However, the majority of member states demand additional requirements. In Belgium, Germany, France and Italy, national students in certain cases have to pass entrance examinations in order to enter higher education.
The Flemish system in Belgium has entrance examinations only for civil engineering. In the Walloon system, entrance examinations are required for civil engineering, military schools and a few other specialized schools.
In Germany, national students have to pass the "Test für medizinische Studiengänge" in order to be admitted to the numerus clausus subjects such as medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry.
In the Italian system, national students who apply at public universities for a course for which a numerus clausus is in force, have to pass a multiple choice entrance examination, called "il concorso". The private universities in Italy are much more selective. They select their students on the basis of aptitude and general knowledge tests for example.
The French system differs from all other systems. To enter the first year of higher education, French students only need the school-leaving certificate called "Baccalaureat". "Real" selection of the national students takes place only after the first cycle of higher education. In order to continue their studies, students have to pass an examination at the end of the first cycle. The universities have a very high percentage of "drop-out". National students, holding a CPGE (Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles), have to pass an entrance examination to gain access to one of the "Grandes Ecoles".

Only in Spain, Portugal and Greece do all national students have to pass entrance examinations in order to gain access to higher education. This situation is linked to the fact that these three countries have numerus clausus regulations for all courses and at all institutions, because of the limited capacity of their higher education systems.
In theory, in Spain only students wanting to follow a long term university course, have to pass an entrance examination, called the "Selectividad". In practice however, this entrance exam is nearly always required to obtain a place on any higher education course.
In Portugal, national students have to pass a general entrance examination, called the "Prova Geral de Acesso". In some cases, a second special subject related examination, the "provas especificas" is required.
Greek students must pass general entrance examinations, called "panellinius exetasis", which are divided into four different categories of disciplines, if they want to be admitted to the Greek higher education system.

In the majority of EC member states, students wanting to study art, music, sports etc. have to pass certain special examinations to test their aptitude.

1.1.2. Entry requirements for foreign EC students with national qualifications

Table 2 Entry requirements for foreign EC students with national qualifications

I. only secondary school-leaving qualifications;
II. secondary school-leaving qualifications and in certain cases entrance examinations;
III. secondary school-leaving qualifications and entrance examinations in all cases.

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I		*		*			*		*	*		*
II	*		*			*		*				
III					*						*	

The table above clearly demonstrates that in almost all member states of the European Community foreign EC students, holding a secondary school-leaving certificate of the country in which they want to study at a higher education institution, are treated like national students with respect to the entry requirements they have to meet.
Greece forms the only exception to this rule. Foreign EC students with a Greek school-leaving certificate, called "apolitirio", do not have to pass the general entrance examination which national students have to pass. This is due to the fact that within the Greek numerus clausus regulations a number of places are especially reserved for foreign students.

1.1.3. Entry requirements for foreign EC transfer students

Table 3 Entry requirements for foreign EC transfer students

I. only secondary school-leaving qualifications;
II. secondary school-leaving qualifications and in certain cases entrance examinations;
III. secondary school-leaving qualifications and entrance examinations in all cases.

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I				*			*		*		*	*
II	*	*	*			*		*		*		
III					*							

The official entry requirements for foreign EC transfer students do not seem to differ very much from the requirements for national students. In all member states, the EC transfer student needs a diploma, recognized as being equivalent to the national secondary school-leaving certificate of the member state concerned. In most cases this means the EC transfer student also needs the school-leaving certificate granting access to higher education in his home country.
In the United Kingdom, Ireland, Luxembourg and France the only entry requirement foreign EC transfer students have to meet, is to possess the appropriate school-leaving certificate. This means the requirements for national and foreign EC students are exactly the same in the UK, Ireland and Luxembourg. In France, like their national counterparts, foreign EC students do not have to pass examinations to enter the first year of a higher education course.
Germany, Italy and Spain also treat national and foreign EC transfer students in the same way. In Germany and Italy, foreign EC transfer students sometimes have to pass entrance examinations. In Spain, entrance examinations are compulsory for both national and foreign EC transfer students.
In Belgium and the Netherlands, foreign EC transfer students need a recognized diploma, but in some cases entrance examinations/qualifying tests are compulsory to prove ability in certain subjects. In Belgium, EC students have to pass entrance examinations for mathematics, civil engineering, physics and agricultural engineering. In the Netherlands, transfer students have to do special subject related exams in order to gain entrance to university courses in certain cases. Access to non-university higher education courses do not require any entrance examinations. In Denmark, transfer students are required to have a recognized diploma besides having passed compulsory entrance examinations in their home country (this is the case in Greece and Portugal for example). Furthermore, for certain degree courses, foreign students may be required to pass supplementary tests. In this respect, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark are treating foreign EC transfer students differently from their national students.
Finally, in Portugal and Greece the entry requirements for foreign EC transfer students are very different from those for national students. In contrast to the national students of both countries, transfer students do not have to pass any entrance examinations.

1.1.4. Entry requirements for foreign EC exchange students

Official entry requirements such as secondary school qualifications, examinations and interviews do not apply to foreign EC exchange students. When we look at foreign EC exchange students, we have to come to the conclusion that in the majority of member states almost all exchange students are in fact Erasmus or Lingua students. The number of foreign EC exchange students in other bilateral (language) programmes is relatively small and the number of "free floaters" even smaller. In most cases the entry requirements applied to these non-Erasmus students are based upon the principles used within the framework of EC programmes like Erasmus.
Within the Erasmus exchange programme the students are selected by the home institution on the basis of study results, language ability and personality. This selection method is based on mutual trust between the host and the home institution. In most cases the only

official requirement foreign EC exchange students have to meet is to provide proof of their enrolment at their home institution for higher education.

1.1.5. Final remarks

The official entry requirements for national and foreign EC transfer students do not seem to differ very much. Even so, in practice these requirements can lead to some remarkable situations. We will illustrate this with two examples.
In the Netherlands there are various entry requirements for university and non-university higher education courses. In Denmark on the other hand, one diploma provides access to all higher education courses. This situation has far-reaching consequences for a Dutch transfer student wanting to study in Denmark. To gain access to a non-university higher education course in the Netherlands, the Dutch student needs a HAVO-diploma. However, to gain access to the same non-university higher education course in Denmark the Dutch student has to have a diploma equivalent to the Danish school-leaving certificate. This means that the HAVO-diploma is suddenly inadequate. The Dutch student now needs the Dutch VWO-diploma, providing access to university courses in the Netherlands.
To illustrate the fact that the different member states of the European Community demand different entry requirements, let us follow a Greek student abroad. A Greek transfer student who wants to study in Luxembourg only needs his Greek school-leaving certificate, the "apolitirio". Just like the Luxembourg students, he is not required to pass any examinations. If the same student goes to Portugal, he would again only need his apolitirio as contrary to the Portuguese students, he would not have to pass an examination. If the Greek transfer student goes to Denmark, the apolitirio would suddenly be inadequate for access to higher education. In Denmark, the Greek student would also have to prove he had passed the compulsory entrance examinations in his home country. And finally in Spain the Greek transfer student would need his apolitirio besides passing a Spanish entrance examination, especially designed for foreigners as well.
If we also include the language requirements foreign EC transfer students have to meet, the picture becomes even more complex. This can be illustrated by the example of a Dutch student going abroad. If a Dutch student wants to study in Germany, he needs a secondary school-leaving certificate. Furthermore, he has to pass a language proficiency test and in the case of a numerus clausus discipline he must sit an entry examination as well. If the same student decides to study in Greece, he again needs a school-leaving certificate. In Greece a recognized Greek language certificate is also required. In Spain the Dutch student would need a school-leaving certificate and pass a compulsory entry examination. He is not required to give evidence of his proficiency in Spanish, neither by means of a test nor a certificate. Finally, in the United Kingdom the only requirement to be met would be the possession of a school-leaving certificate. But due to the independence of the individual higher education institutions, this requirement would not at all garantuee a place at an institution.

These differences may be understandable from the point of view of the individual member states and their educational history, but it clearly shows that we are still far away from an access without barriers in a free educational system.

1.2. Limitations

1.2.1. Limitations for national students

According to European law: "Limiting access to academic studies to candidates who have attained a sufficiently high level to follow the courses succesfully does not constitute a denial of the right to education".[1] In practice nearly all member states of the European Community have numerus clausus regulations that limit access to higher education. Numerus clausus limitations can be implemented for different reasons:

- the limited capacity of higher education institutions.
- the limited capacity of the labour market.

In most cases numerus clausus regulations are caused by a combination of these two factors. In almost every member state the Ministry of Education annually determines the number of places available within numerus clausus subjects. This is often done in consultation with the higher education institutions themselves. Subjects, that are limited by numerus clausus regulations in almost all member states, are: medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry.

Table 4 gives an overview of numerus clausus regulations for national students

I. no numerus clausus regulations.
II. partial numerus clausus regulations.
III. numerus clausus regulations for the complete higher education system.

Table 4 Limitations for national students

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*								*			
II		*	*		*	*		*		*		
III				*			*				*	*

Belgium and Luxembourg are the only countries in the European Community that do not limit access to higher education for their national students in any way. They do not have numerus clausus regulations.

All other member states have a partial (6) or even complete (4) system of numerus clausus limitations. In Italy, medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and informatics have numerus clausus regulations. In the Netherlands in 1991/1992 thirteen subject areas are limited by numerus clausus. Germany has an extensive numerus clausus system, both on the national and the "Länder" level. Furthermore Spain and Denmark limit the access to almost all higher education courses (Spain limits 70% of all courses). In France, access to the first year of university study is not limited. But entrance to other institutions for higher education is very limited. The second cycle of medical studies does have a numerus clausus, determined by the French Ministries of Health and Education.

[1] Right to Education (protocol 1 to the ECHR) / D 8844/80 (UK) 9.12.80, 23/228.

Finally, four member states of the Community have a complete numerus clausus system for all higher education courses and institutions. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, institutions decide for themselves on the number of students they will admit each year. The decision is based on the capacity of the institutions. In this way one can speak of a numerus clausus system. In practice this means that the higher education systems of both Ireland and the United Kingdom are highly selective.

In Portugal and Greece the situation is rather different. The complete numerus clausus system in these countries is the direct result of the fact that the total higher education system is not yet capable of admitting every national applicant. In Greece, only one fifth of Greek applicants can be admitted. The number of places available within each subject area is determined on a national level in consultation with the various higher education institutions.

1.2.2. Limitations for foreign EC students with national qualifications

In all member states of the European Community, foreign EC students with national school-leaving qualifications of the country concerned, are treated as national students with respect to numerus clausus regulations.

I. no numerus clausus regulations.
II. partial numerus clausus regulations.
III. numerus clausus regulations for the complete higher education system.

Table 5 Limitations for foreign EC students with national qualifications

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*								*			
II		*	*		*	*		*		*		
III				*			*				*	*

1.2.3. Limitations for foreign EC transfer students

In almost all member states, foreign EC transfer students will only be confronted with numerus clausus limitations, if they start as a first year student. If they enter a course at a later stage, the numerus clausus regulations frequently no longer apply.

The numerus clausus situations for foreign EC transfer students in the different member states can be divided into three categories:

I. no numerus clausus;
II. numerus clausus regulations equal to those for national students;
III. numerus clausus regulations different from those for national students.

Table 6 Limitations for foreign EC transfer students

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*								*			
II		*	*		*		*					*
III				*		*		*		*	*	

In Belgium and Luxembourg, the number of foreign EC transfer students is not limited by regulations. However, in 1972 Belgium decided to limit the number of foreign non-EC transfer students. Their number may not exceed 2% of the number of Belgian students registered the previous year.

In five countries (Germany, Denmark, Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom), the numerus clausus regulations for foreign EC transfer students are similar to those for national students. In Germany, foreign EC students are treated like national students, but for foreign non-EC students a maximum quotum of 6% still exists.

In the remaining member states, foreign EC transfer students are not given the same treatment as national students with respect to limitations. In the Netherlands, there is a special quota for all foreign transfer students who wish to study medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. France has a special maximum quota of 5% for all foreign transfer students who want to study medicine in Paris.
Portugal, Italy and Greece limit the number of all foreign transfer students for all courses and institutions. In Portugal, every institution reserves a very small number of places for these students. The number is based on the institution's capacity and the number of Portuguese students. In practice this quota never exceeds 2%. In Greece only 1% of the total number of places in the higher education system is reserved for foreign students. In both Portugal and Greece this situation has its origins in the fact that the higher education system is too small. It cannot even admit all national students.
In Italy, a quotum is in force for the admission of foreign transfer students in all fields of study. Each faculty at each university determines the number of places available. In practice this percentage is never more than 10%. An important reason for these quota is the desire of many foreign students to study in Rome or Florence.

1.2.4. Limitations for foreign EC exchange students

Numerus clausus regulations do not apply to foreign EC exchange students, because as a rule short term exchanges are not open to first year students.
The only limitations that might confront these students are the limitations existing within the bilateral or multilateral exchange programmes themselves. In most cases only a limited number of places are available for which students have to compete at their home institution. For example, Erasmus exchange students, sometimes have to pass a language test at their home institution to qualify and be selected for a period of study abroad.

1.2.5. Final remarks

In the introduction is was mentioned that the imbalance of student flows within the European Community is one of the major problems concerning student mobility. This situation is partly caused by the different degrees of flexibility of the national higher education systems of the individual member states. As we have seen, this flexibility varies from completely open systems, like in Belgium, Luxembourg and, to a certain extend, Italy to the highly selective higher education systems of Ireland, Germany and the United Kingdom.
The Belgian higher education system does not have any numerus clausus restrictions for national or foreign EC students. And as a result there is a high inflow of foreign EC transfer students. The Flemish community receives large numbers of Dutch students, who have been turned down for medicine in the Netherlands; the Walloon provinces receive a huge number of German and French transfer students. The growing number of foreign EC transfer students is causing some anxiety to Belgian institutions. The access of EC students is not limited by the aforementioned 2% quota and these students cannot be forced to pay full cost fees. As a result of the Gravier case, foreign EC students since 1988 pay the same tuition fees as their Belgian counterparts. Foreign non-EC students on the other hand, pay full cost fees. If the number of foreign EC students exceeds 2% and the institutions no longer receive a government subsidy for their education this will ultimately result in large financial problems. Luxembourg does not have any numerus clausus regulations either but because the higher education system in Luxembourg does not offer any complete university courses, this does not lead to a high inflow of foreign EC transfer students.
The situation in EC member states with strict numerus clausus regulations is in fact the opposite. For example, many German students try to avoid numerus clausus regulations by studying abroad. They go to other EC member states, such as Belgium, but also to Hungary and Rumania. While enrolled at foreign institutions, they can still participate in the German numerus clausus selection, which would not have beeb allowed if they had decided to study a different subject at a German institution. So, after some years many of them do get a place at a German institution and return to their home country to finish their studies.
In member states with numerus clausus limitations for all courses, the outflow of national students is even more extensive. In Greece for example, one out of every three to four students leaves the country to study abroad (Germany, France, the United Kingdom).

Finally, a reference should be made here to the fact that foreign EC students should be accorded equal treatment to their national counterparts, but in practice this does not always automatically result in a better position for foreign EC students. This statement can be clearly demonstrated by a German example.
Within the German numerus clausus a percentage has always been reserved for foreign students. This percentage was 6% for all EC and non-EC students, of which 4% in particular was designated to foreign students with German secondary school-leaving qualifications. However, because European law forbids the discrimination of EC students, this system will change from 1991/1992. From then onwards, foreign EC students will be taken out of this 6% quota and treated as German students. In practice, the position of foreign EC transfer students might worsen instead of improving, because their foreign secondary school education has not been designed to meet the requirements of the German higher education system. They will have to pass the same tests as their German counterparts and it will be difficult to compete with them.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

2.1. Introduction

In his book The EEC and education, Guy Neave writes: "It is perhaps not without reason that certain commentators in the field of mobility studies see students as an underprivileged body when compared to the various professional groups in the Community for whom the freedom of movement is a matter not just of rights, but a fact".[1]
However, over the last few years student mobility has drawn growing attention within the European Community. The activities of the Community in this field seem to concentrate more on short term mobility than on transfer mobility.
To improve both short term and transfer mobility certain conditions have to be set up. The recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study is one of the most important preconditions. Foreign EC transfer students need recognition of their entrance or intermediate qualifications and degrees to be admitted to a higher education institution. Foreign EC exchange students need recognition of their periods of study abroad in order to integrate them in their official study programme at their home institution.

2.2. The European Community Network of National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC)

Following the adoption of ERASMUS in 1987, the improvement of the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study between Community countries as a way of stimulating the mobility of students and university teaching staff is becoming an increasingly important element of Community policy.
In order to improve the present situation, the Community agreed to strengthen the exchange of information on academic recognition and equivalence issues by establishing a network of information centres - the NARIC network - in 1984. The network is now part of the ERASMUS programme.
All EC member states have designated national centres, the purpose of which is to assist in promoting the mobility of students, teachers and researchers in the Community by providing authoritative advice and information concerning the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study undertaken in other member states. In most cases, these centres are also responsible for work related to the implementation of the conventions of the Council of Europe and UNESCO regarding academic recognition and equivalence.[2]

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[1] G. Neave, The EEC and education (Stock-on-Trent 1984) p.79.

[2] Information leaflet NARIC (1990:3).

2.3. Recognition of foreign entrance, intermediate and final certificates and degrees and of periods of study

Foreign EC students can enter the higher education system at different admission levels. However, the majority of students starts a study course abroad at the entrance level. This means as a first year student. Admission at this level is relatively well organized, because of the high number of official agreements between member states and between individual higher education institutions concerning the recognition of foreign entrance certificates.
It is also possible for foreign EC students to enter the higher education system of another member state after already having done some years of higher education in the home country. In general the number of foreign EC transfer students entering at an intermediate level is rather low. For the receiving higher education institution it is sometimes rather difficult to assess the level of the foreign EC student and there are only some multilateral and bilateral agreements concerning intermediate qualifications.
Finally, foreign EC students can enter the higher education system at a Ph.D level. In this case decisions on entry requirements and recognition are mostly made by the institution concerned on an individual basis, case by case.

A. Official agreements

multilateral and bilateral agreements and unilateral decisions

* *multilateral agreements*
Within the European Community there are no multilateral conventions governing the recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate or final certificates and degrees or of periods of study. The multilateral conventions that do exist are to be found on the level of the Council of Europe and of UNESCO.

In the 1950s a number of important agreements concerning recognition were made on the level of the Council of Europe.

- On 11 December 1953 the "*European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas Leading to Admission to Universities*" was signed in Paris.
  The core principle of this agreement is that "Each contracting party shall recognize, for the purpose of admission (which is subject to state control) to the universities situated in its territory, the equivalence of those diplomas awarded in the territory of another contracting party which constitute a requisite qualification for admission to similar institutions in the country in which these diplomas were awarded".[1]
  This convention is in force within all the member states of the EC.
- Three years later, in 1956, the "*European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study*" was signed. This agreement provides that the "Contracting parties shall recognize a period of study spent by a student of modern languages in a university of another member country of the Council of Europe as equivalent to a similar period spent in his home university provided that the authorities of the first-

[1] European Convention no.15 (1953), article 1.

mentioned university have issued to such a student a certificate attesting that he has completed the said period of study to their satisfaction".[1]
The agreement is in force in all EC member states except Greece.

- In 1959 the last agreement was signed, the "*European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications*". The core principle of this convention states that the "Contracting parties shall grant academic recognition to university qualifications conferred by a university situated in the territory of another contracting party....to pursue further university studies and sit for academic examination....(and) to use an academic title conferred by a foreign university...".[2]

The UNESCO agreements on recognition are much more recent than those of the Council of Europe. They date from 1976 and 1979.
In 1976 the "*International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Educaton in the Arab and European States Bordering on the Mediterranean*" was adopted. Three years later the "*Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the Europe Region*" followed. The provisions of both agreements are similar and concern entrance as well as intermediate and final qualifications:

- "The contracting states in addition to any obligations of governments, agree to take all feasible steps with a view to encouraging the competent authorities concerned to give recognition....to secondary school leaving certificates and other diplomas issued in the other contracting states that grant access to higher education with a view to enabling the holders to undertake studies in institutions of higher education situated in the respective territories of the contracting states".
- "The contracting states, in addition to any obligations of governments, agree to take all feasible steps with a view to encouraging the competent authorities concerned to: define, so far as possible, the procedure applicable to the recognition, for the purpose of the pursuit of studies, of the partial studies pursued in higher educational institu tions situated in other contracting states".
- Concerning the recognition of final qualifications, the conventions state advocates close cooperation to recognize studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees and define a broader context for active cooperation and effective collaboration. They are intended "...to promote regional and world-wide cooperation for the solution of the problems of comparison and equivalence between academic degrees and diplomas as well as for recognition of studies and academic diplomas".[3]

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[1] European Convention no.21 (1956), article 2.

[2] European Convention no.32 (1959), article 3.

[3] Convention on the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees concerning higher education in the Europe region (1979) article 3.1.

Table 7 Multilateral agreements[1]

X = in force
NA = not applicable
Y = ratified
* = possibility of membership
Z = signed, but not ratified
O = withdrew from UNESCO after ratification

Country	A. Council of Europe Conventions			B. UNESCO Conventions	
	1. Admission to University (1)	2. Periods of Study (2)	3. University Qualifications (3)	4. Europe Region (4)	5. Mediterranean (5)
B	X	X	X	Y, X	NA
D	X	X	X	Z	NA
DK	X	X	X	Y, X	NA
E	X	X	X	Y, X	Z
F	X	X	X	Z	Z
G	X			Z	Z
I	X	X	X	Y, X	Y, X
IRL	X	X	X	Z	NA
LUX	X	X		Z	NA
NL	X	X	X	Y, X	NA
P	X	X	X	Y, X	NA*
UK	X	X	X	O - Y, X	NA

(1) European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities
(2) European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study
(3) European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications
(4) Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region
(5) International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean.

* *bilateral agreements and unilateral decisions on a national level*

Between European Community member states there are several bilateral conventions and many unilateral decisions. In the event that these do not exist, it should by no means be understood that certificates, diplomas and degrees of the individual member states and their respective universities are not recognized by the other member states. It may mean that:

- multilateral agreements are implemented or;
- the qualifications from other member states are generally accepted or;
- the qualifications are assessed individually.

The majority of the bilateral conventions and unilateral decisions refer to higher education entrance qualifications. Some refer to final qualifications and relatively few to higher education courses and intermediate qualifications.

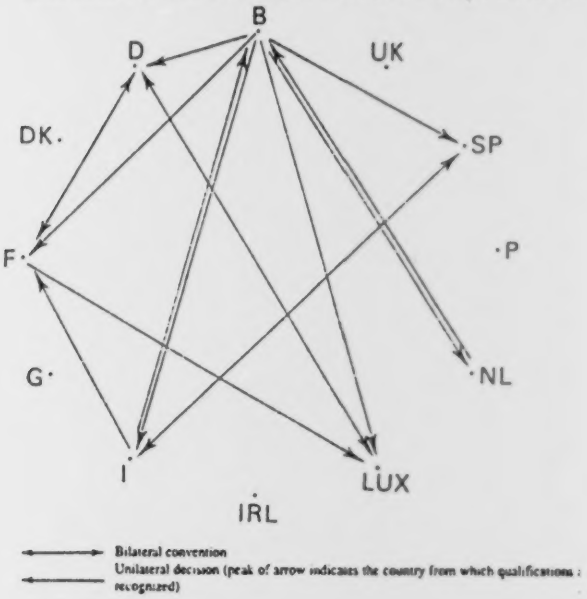
In this report we will confine ourselves to the outlines. The details concerning this matter have already been sketched by the NARIC in their recent publication: *Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions and unilateral decisions.*

The three sketches below summerize the various bilateral conventions and unilateral decisions on recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study which are in force in the European Community.[2]

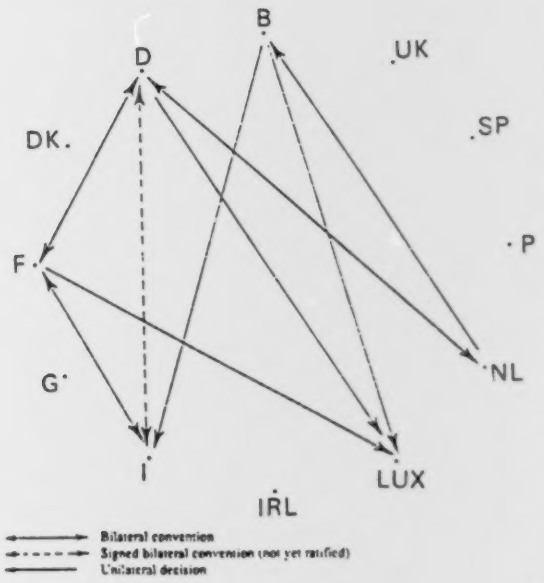
[1] Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions and unilateral decisions (NARIC), p.10.

[2] Ibidem, p.11.

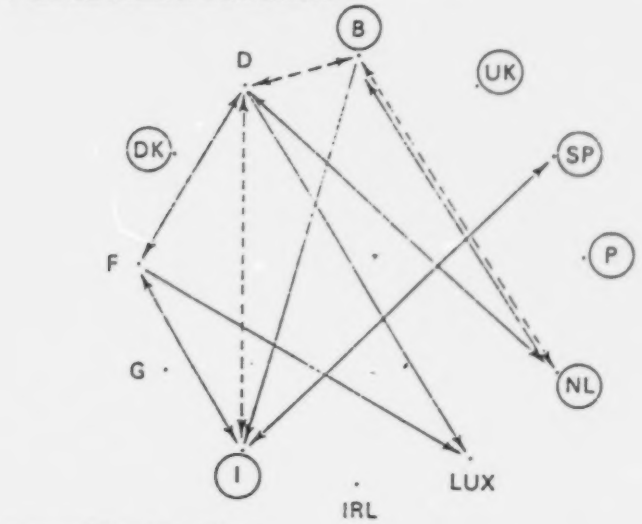
Sketch 1 Recognition of Higher Education Entrance Qualifications. Bilateral Conventions and Unilateral Decisions in Force in European Community Member States



Sketch 2 Recognition of higher education courses and intermediate qualifications. Bilateral Conventions and Unilateral Decisions in Force in European Community Member States



Sketch 3 Recognition of higher education final qualifications. Bilateral Conventions and Unilateral Decisions in Force in European Community Member States and Planned Bilateral Conventions



Belgium

Belgium has concluded cultural agreements with many countries. Each of these envisages agreements on the equivalence of qualifications but only in some cases has this in fact been achieved.

Denmark

Denmark has not concluded formal equivalence agreements with other member states. In practice, Danish universities implement the European Convention of 1953 and accept in principle all normal qualifications granting access to a recognized university in a member state.

Germany

Germany has several formal bilateral conventions and is negotiating new ones. Germany has one unilateral agreement concerning Luxembourg.

Greece

Greece has no formal agreements with other EC member states.

Spain

Spain has two bilateral conventions with Italy.

France
France has bilateral conventions with Germany, Luxembourg and Italy and has concluded a large number of cultural agreements but only in some cases have these resulted in equivalences in educational qualifications.

Ireland
Ireland has no formal agreements with other EC member states.

Italy
The recognition and equivalence of foreign academic qualifications are defined by the academic authorities of Italian universities. Even so there are agreements with other member states on a national level.

Luxembourg
Luxembourg has concluded cultural agreements with several member states and depends, due to its lack of complete university courses, on various unilateral decisions.

The Netherlands
The Netherlands has bilateral agreements and unilateral decrees concerning its neighbours Germany and Belgium.

Portugal
Portugal has no bilateral agreements with other member states.

United Kingdom
There are no specific agreements at a national level between the UK and other member states, although each university or matriculation authority generally has a wide list of equivalences applying to candidates seeking admission to various levels of study.

Finally it should be mentioned that the European Baccalaureate is fully recognized by all member states of the EC. The International Baccalaureate on the other hand, is only recognized in a number of EC countries.

Table 8 Recognition of the European and the International Baccalaureate[1]

Country	A EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE	B INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE	
		State Recognition	Higher Education Institution Recognition
B	X	X	
D	X	Y	YY
DK	X	Y	YY
E	X	Y	YY
F	X	Y	YY
G	X	—	
I	X	X	XX
IRL	X	—	YY
LUX	X		
NL	X	X	XX
P	X	Y	
UK	X		YY

X = full recognition by the Member State
Y = restricted recognition by the Member State
— = no recognition by the Member State
XX = full recognition by all higher education institutions of the Member State
YY = restricted recognition by all or some higher education institutions of the Member State

Agreements on an institutional or faculty level

In some EC member states recognition agreements exist on a lower level. This level can be an individual higher education institution or even a faculty within an institution. For instance, Italian universities have concluded several agreements on recognition of periods of study with universities in France and Germany.

The "Centre Universitaire" in Luxembourg undoubtedly has the highest number of agreements with universities in other member states. The "Centre Universitaire" concluded about one hundred of these contracts. They mainly concern the outflow of Luxembourg students. The agreements are very important to Luxembourg, because its students have to go abroad to finish a university course. Most agreements concern higher education institutions or faculties in France, Belgium and Germany. The "Centre Universitaire" also has contracts with universities in the United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland and Austria.[2]

B. Recognition in practice

Recognition of foreign entrance, intermediate and final qualifications

The official agreements obviously form the basis on which higher education institutions act when it comes to the recognition and equivalence of foreign qualifications. But most EC member states only have a few bilateral agreements and unilateral decisions and some even have none.

This means that in practice recognition and equivalence issues are decided on an individual basis. Depending on the member state concerned, these decisions are taken by

[1]Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications (NARIC), p.11.

[2]Equivalences pour les cours universitaires (Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg 1990).

different institutions. For instance, in Spain recognition and equivalence matters are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. In Greece on the other hand, the Inter-university Institute for the Recognition of Foreign Certificates and Degrees (DIKATSA) takes these decisions concerning AEI-institutions. The Institute for Technological Education (ITE) does the same for TEI-institutions. In countries like Ireland and the UK decisions like these are taken by the individual higher education institutions themselves, assisted if necessary by the national NARICs.
Therefore, foreign EC transfer students need to have their entrance or intermediate qualifications recognized by these institutes before they can be admitted to a higher education institution. In some cases the foreign certificate of the transfer student will not be exactly equivalent to the national certificate. This problem can be resolved in different ways. For example, in Germany transfer students have to pass a test, the so-called "Feststellungsprüfung", if their foreign certificate is not considered to be equivalent to the German one. In Portugal, the faculty concerned evaluates the foreign certificates of the transfer students and in some cases students enter the Portuguese higher education system at a lower level, because foreign and national certificates are not completely equivalent.

In general recognition and equivalence cause less problems where university and not non-university higher education is concerned. The programmes of non-university higher education courses in the various member states differ extensively from each other and there is an enormous lack of information on these courses within the Community. This obviously makes comparison, recognition and equivalence very difficult. Recognition and equivalence also become more complicated if a foreign EC student transfers from one country to another during a course. The courses in the different member states have different structures.
Sometimes recognition can still form a major obstacle for foreign EC transfer students, even if an official legal framework exists. The Portuguese population of Luxembourg constitutes a good example of this. Great difficulties can arise if Portuguese students, residing in Luxembourg and in possesion of a Luxembourg school-leaving certificate plus one year of Luxembourg univerisity education want to go abroad. Belgium for example, adopted a law in 1987 prescribing that transfer students from other EC member states have to prove admittance to the same course in their country of origin. For Portuguese students residing in Luxembourg this means that their Luxembourg certificates are inadequate. They have to possess the equivalent in Portugal, which is very difficult and time-consuming.

Recognition of periods of study and credit points

"Recognition of a period of study at a partner institution in another country of the European Community as corresponding to studies at home is generally considered to be a very important element of any student mobility arrangement. Obviously, it is a major factor for stimulating study abroad, and it is crucial for insuring the quality of any provision for study abroad".[1]

[1]U. Teichler, Recognition. A typological overview of recognition issues arising in temporary study abroad (Erasmus Monographs no.3, Kassel 1990) p.14.

In the majority of official bilateral or EC exchange programmes, strict arrangements have been made between the different higher education institutions with respect to the recognition of credit points and periods of study. Recognition is based on mutual trust between the partner institutions. For individual "free floaters" recognition can cause a lot of problems. To get full credit for their period of study abroad, they depend on individual agreements with professors at their home institutions. But within official exchange programmes, recognition of periods of study in general is not a major obstacle. Still, in some cases problems do occur. These might be caused by:

- differences in the modes of teaching, learning and assessment between home and host institution;
- discrepancies between the period of study abroad on the one hand and the normal cycles of learning and examinations at the host institution on the other hand;
- discrepancies in terms of course content between the period of study abroad and what students would have been required to learn at the home institution;
- discrepancies in the quality of education offered by the home and host institution;
- administrative and organizational matters.[1]

[1] Ibidem, p.15.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

3.1. Application and registration procedures for foreign EC transfer students

Within the European Community the application procedure for foreign EC transfer students takes place in roughly three different ways:

I. direct application to the higher education institution concerned;
II. application through a central institute;
III. a combination of I and II.

Table 9 Application procedures for foreign EC transfer students

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*	*	*		*				*			
II				*			*	*			*	*
III						*				*		

In Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain foreign EC transfer students can apply directly to the higher education institution of their choice.

In Ireland, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy and Greece applications of foreign EC transfer students are dealt with by means of a central system, which is known as the "clearing house system" in the United Kingdom.
In Ireland and the United Kingdom special "clearing houses" exist. In Ireland it is called the Central Application Office (CAO/CAS). The UK has seperate institutes for universities (UCCA: Universities Central Council on Admission) and non-university higher education institutions (PCAS: Polytechnics Central Admission System).
Transfer students wanting to study in Portugal have to send their application to the "Gabinete Coordenador do Ingresso ao Ensino Superior". In Greece, these matters are dealt with directly by the Ministry of National Education and Religion (Section Higher Education Entrance Examinations).
Finally, transfer students wanting to study in Italy, have to apply to the Italian consulate in their home country.
Foreign EC transfer students applying for admission in these countries, have to indicate a certain number of higher education institutions of their choice on the application form. The central body makes a selection and in some cases also forwards the application form.

In the Netherlands and France, the application system is more complicated. In the Netherlands, foreign EC transfer students wishing to study at a university first have to apply directly to the institution of their choice, in order to obtain authorization to take examinations in their chosen subjects. With this authorization they then have to register with a central body, the "Centraal Bureau Aanmelding en Plaatsing" (CBAP), which allocates the places. Upon being granted authorization to take examinations and receiving

a place, the student registers at the institution. To study at a non-university higher education institution, the student must apply directly to the school concerned.
In France, foreign EC transfer students can apply in some cases directly to the institution of their choice. This procedure can be followed by first year students with for instance a French baccalaureate or a German entrance certificate. Transfer students who want to enter the second cycle of higher education can also follow this procedure. However, for the majority of foreign EC transfer students applying for university admission, a system of pre-inscription is in use. In this case the transfer students have to apply to the French embassy in their home country.
When applying for admission to a higher education institution and registering, foreign EC transfer students have to submit a number of documents and provide certain information. The amount of information and number of documents needed, varies per member state. In Portugal for example, the procedure is very simple. This is partly due to the fact that the number of transfer students is very small. The students only have to complete an application form and attach relevant documents concerning qualifications, degrees or credit points. In Greece on the other hand, the procedure is very complicated. The foreign EC transfer students have to produce six different documents, all translated into Greek and ratified for authenticity.
The most frequently requested documents and information are:
- copy of a passport or identity card;
- curriculum vitae;
- copies of qualifications, degrees and credit points;
- certified translations of these copies;
- description of past education.

A number of countries also demand a document proving the student has health insurance. Finally, some Belgian institutions ask students to show proof of solvency signed by the parent or sponsor.

The time span needed for application and registration of foreign EC transfer students also differs per country. In the United Kingdom for instance, transfer students have to apply almost a year in advance. In Germany, the time span involved is no more than approximately three months. Due to the small number of foreign transfer applications in Portugal and Luxembourg, transfer students have to apply only two months (P) or even one month (L) in advance. In most member states, the time span needed is about six to eight months.

3.2. Application and registration procedures for foreign EC exchange students

Within short term exchange programmes, foreign EC exchange students remain officially registered at their home institutions. This means that the application and registration procedure at the host institution is very simple. In most cases the student's programme coordinators take care of this. In general the documents required, are:
- a completed application form;
- proof of enrolment at the home institution;
- passport;
- and in some cases proof of health insurance.

The time span involved is generally relatively short.
The application and registration procedure sometimes becomes a bit more complicated in the case of a foreign EC short term "free floater". For instance, in the United Kingdom, these students do not go through the normal clearing house system, but have to apply directly to the higher education institutions. They have to submit a course list, references and their academic plans for the future.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

"European cooperation in the field of foreign languages cannot even implicitly allow for a reduction or simplification of the language map of the member states. The question of the so-called "minority languages" involves the very fabric of European cultures, whose integrity must be preserved".[1]

If this objective is taken into account, language training obviously becomes very important. But to date one of the most important impediments with respect to student mobility within the European Community is still created by the generally insufficient knowledge of foreign languages of students in the different member states.

4.1. Language requirements for foreign EC transfer students

In the EC countries foreign EC transfer students have to meet more requirements than foreign EC exchange students when it comes to language ability. In most cases these requirements involve passing a language proficiency test or having a certain language certificate.
The requirements of the different member states can roughly be divided into three possible situations, as shown in table 10:

I. language proficiency test;
II. language certificate;
III. no official requirements.

Table 10 Language requirements for foreign EC transfer students

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I		*	*			*	*	*		*		*
II	*			*			*			*		*
III	*				*		*		*		*	*

Of course all EC countries demand a good knowledge of the language. Language ability is a prerequisite to follow education at a higher level. Also in countries like Portugal and Luxembourg, where there are no official language requirements, knowledge of the national languages is needed to turn the stay abroad into a success.
Some countries have official language requirements at a national level. In other countries the individual higher education institutions make their own requirements.

Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain do not have any official language requirements. However, in Spain the language ability of the transfer students is tested in the general entrance

[1] Mobility of students in Europe. Linguistic and socio-cultural conditions (Commission of the European Communities, Luxembourg 1990) p.14.

examination, the "Selectividad". If a student is not proficient in Spanish, he will never be able to pass this examination.

In Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom, language requirements on a national level do not exist. The individual institutions make their own rules. In Belgium some institutions demand a language certificate, others do not ask for any requirements. In Ireland, higher education institutions require transfer students to pass a proficiency test or show an official language certificate. And in the United Kingdom, a test, a certificate or sometimes nothing is needed, depending on the institution.

In six EC member states, language requirements exist on a national level. In the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Germany and Italy foreign EC transfer students have to pass a language proficiency test before being admitted to a higher education institution.
In the majority of these countries, certain groups of students are exempted. In the Netherlands, the test only refers to university institutions. Transfer students wanting to follow a course at a non-university higher education institution do not have to pass the test. In Germany, foreign EC students with German entrance qualifications and foreign EC transfer students, coming from German speaking regions are exempted. In Denmark the test is not required for transfer students from Nordic countries, with Danish as a second language at secondary school. Finally in Italy, foreign EC transfer students, who want to study at the SADFS, ISEF or art schools are exempted from the language test. They have to pass a general entrance examination, which requires a good knowledge of Italian.

In Greece, all foreign EC transfer students need a language certificate before gaining access to the Greek higher education system. Greek students, who have been living abroad for more than five years, however do have to pass a national language proficiency test.

In countries, where French, German or English is spoken, language does not form a major obstacle for incoming students. In member states with so-called "minority languages" the situation is completely different. In Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece all higher education courses are given in the national language. In Portugal and Greece, in particular, the language barrier is considered the main impediment for incoming student mobility.
In the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark the situation is slightly different. In these countries a number of higher education courses are given in other languages. Dutch higher education institutions offer quite a number of courses in English. In the Flemish community in Belgium, a number of courses is given in English or French, although this is officially against the law. In the Walloon part of the country some institutions offer courses in English although the law, forbidding teaching in a foreign language, will soon be altered. In Denmark compulsory courses have to be given in Danish, but sometimes optional courses are offered in English.

Every EC member state offers special language courses for foreign EC transfer students, although there are of course differences with respect to the quality and the number of courses.
Language courses are given at different levels, with different intensity and at different times during the academic year. The costs of the courses depends on the level and the

intensity. In many countries, foreign students can follow special intensive summer courses. The majority of the bigger higher education institutions within the European Community have special language departments for foreign students.
Foreign EC transfer students, wishting to study in the Netherlands, can even order a special Dutch study kit, to learn Dutch in their home country. Finally, Germany, the United Kingdom and France have special facilities in other member states (like the German Goethe-institutes and the British Councils), where foreign students can follow language courses.

4.2. Language requirements for foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students do not have to meet any official language requirements, as far as a bilateral or EC programme is concerned. This does not mean that the students are not expected to have a good knowledge of the language. Again mutual trust between the home and the host institution forms the basis of the exchange. The home institution is expected to select the exchange students partly on the basis of their language ability. Only in Ireland some higher education institutions have standard language tests or interviews for foreign EC exchange students.

In member states with minority languages a lot of foreign EC exchange students follow short (international) courses given in English or French. In Portugal, the majority take place at a post-graduate level. This way the students do not have to follow any courses in Portuguese and can communicate with their supervisors in English or French.
Most EC countries offer special language courses for foreign exchange students within the ERASMUS programme. If the costs of these courses are estimated within the budget of the ICP, the students do not have to pay for their language training.

5. TUITION FEES

5.1. Tuition fees for national students and foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC students pay the same tuition fees as national students. According to European law, they cannot be forced to pay higher tuition fees than the national students of a member state. Because of this a number of countries have different tuition fees for foreign EC and non-EC transfer students. In Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom, foreign EC transfer students pay home fees, while foreign non-EC transfer students are expected to pay full-cost tuition fees. The amount non-EC students have to pay depends on the subject and the level of the course.

Table 11 Tuition fees for one academic year (1990-1991)

	foreign EC transfer students	foreign non-EC transfer students
B	universities ± BEF 15,000 non-uni.inst. BEF 7,500	BEF 100,000 - 250,000
DK	no fees	no fees
D	no fees	no fees
G	uiversities GRD 27,000[1] or GRD 36,000 non-uni.inst. no fees	universities GRD 54,000[2] or GRD 72,000 non-uni.inst. no fees
E	sciences ESP 65,000 other subjects ESP 43,000	sciences ESP 65,000 other subjects ESP 43,000
F	universities FRF 450 écoles FRF 10,000- FRF 40,000	universities FRF 450 écoles FRF 10,000- FRF 40,000
I	public institutions: 1st year ITL 400,000 rest ITL 350,000 private institutions: high, based on parental income (ITL 2-7 mill.)	public institutions: 1st year ITL 400,000 rest ITL 350,000 private institutions: high based on parental income (ITL 2-7 mill.)
IRL	IEP 1,300 - IEP 1,900	IEP 10,000 - IEP 12,000
L	no fees	no fees
NL	universities NLG 1,750 non-uni.inst. NLG 1,600	universities NLG 1,750 non-uni.inst. NLG 1,600
P	public inst. PTE 2,000 private inst. PTE 25,000 PTE 30,000 a month	public inst. PTE 2,000 private inst. PTE 25,000 PTE 30,000 a month
UK	± GBP 1,675	± GBP 5,000 - 12,000

[1]For medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and the polytechnical faculties.

[2]Ibidem.

Greece seems to be the only country, where national and foreign EC transfer students are treated differently with respect to tuition fees. Greek students do not pay any fees. Foreign EC transfer students have to pay fifty percent of the official tuition fees for foreign non-EC transfer students (see table 11). Finally, students coming from countries in which Greek students are not required to pay fees are exempted from paying tuition fees in Greece.
In most cases the tuition fees within one country vary. Sometimes a distinction is made between universities and non-university higher education institutions (the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Greece). In the majority of member states the tuition fees are determined on a national level. In Belgium, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Ireland the individual institutions can set their own fees. Sometimes the tuition fees for public institutions are determined on a national level and are relatively low, while private institutions demand much higher fees (Portugal, Italy).
In Germany, Denmark and Luxembourg tuition fees do not exist. In Germany, all national and foreign students have to pay a small sum, called "Sozialgebühren", for the use of institution facilities. In Denmark, all national and foreign students have to pay a deposit on enrolment (DKK 500), which is refunded on completion of the course.
In most countries, foreign EC transfer students are allowed to pay tuition fees in two or more installments.

5.2. Tuition fees for foreign EC exchange students

In all EC exchange programmes and most bilateral exchange programmes mutual arrangements have been made between the home and host countries concerning the payment of tuition fees. In the majority of cases the mutual tuition fees are acquited. If an exchange student has to pay tuition fees during his stay abroad, this money will be refunded within the grant.
In Denmark, exchange students have to pay a refundable deposit of DKK 50, and in Germany, exchange students have to pay their "Sozialgebühren".

6. STUDENT GRANTS

6.1. Grants for national students

All EC member states have a grant system for national students. However, there are huge differences between the countries. In countries like Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark almost every student receives a substantial grant. In France, Portugal, Italy and Greece for example only a small percentage of all students receive a rather small grant:

France	22%
Portugal	10%
Italy	20%

The amount of the national grant can be a decisive factor when it comes to student mobility. Students receiving large grants have more a greater financial opportunity to go abroad. This is clearly demonstrated by the large number of German students studying in other EC member states for instance. On the other hand, students from countries with less extensive national grant systems, e.g. Italy or Greece, nearly always have to contribute a considerable amount of money of their own.

In some countries the grants are not, or only partially, means tested (depending on the parental income); in others, the amount of the grant depends on the parental income. Very often the amount of money a national student receives also depends on his residence: students living at home receive less money than students living away from home.
A number of EC member states have made special loan arrangements for national students. In some cases these loans are free of interest; in others interest rates have to be paid.

The Netherlands
The grant is not means tested. Supplements to the basic grant in some cases have to be refunded with interest.

Germany
The German grant is means tested and fifty percent of the total amount has to be paid back.

Denmark
Students under 19 receive a means tested grant. For older students the grant is not means tested. Students can get a loan with interest.

The United Kingdom and Ireland
The maintenance element of the grant is means tested; the fee element is not. Students can get a loan with interest.

Luxembourg
National students receive a total amount of money which is means tested and is made up of a grant and two loans, one with and one without interest.

Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece
National students receive a means tested grant.

6.2. Financial assistance and scholarships for national students going abroad[1]

Until this moment it is not yet officially possible for transfer students to take their national grant abroad with them. However, this situation may change in future. The Dutch Minister of Education and Science, for instance, wants to provide Dutch transfer students, going to Flanders and Nordrhein-Westfalen, with a regular national grant.[2] In practice, Dutch transfer students studying in Belgium, are already receiving their normal monthly national grant.[3]
In a number of EC member states, short term exchange students can apply for an extension or a rise of their regular national grant. In Germany students receive a one year extension of their grant, the "Bafög". The grant is also raised, depending on the cost of living in the country of destination. In the United Kingdom, national students can apply for a supplementary grant, provided that the stay abroad is compulsory within the framework of their regular higher education course. In Denmark a fund for international education is often used to supplement the national grants of "free floaters" going abroad.
Furthermore, some EC member states have special scholarships or funds for national students who want to study abroad. For instance, in the Netherlands the STIR programme is used to promote the internationalisation of higher education. It provides students with scholarships. In Portugal, national students studying for a master's or a Ph.D can apply for a special government scholarship to study abroad. In Germany, students who are particularly gifted students can apply for scholarships from one of the eight "Begabtenförderungswerke".

6.3. Financial assistance and scholarships for foreign EC students[4]

In most member states, foreign EC students can, under certain conditions, apply for a national grant: for instance, if they have been resident in the country for several years, or if their parents are working in the country.
Furthermore, the majority of EC member states have bilateral cultural agreements with other member states. These agreements often involve scholarships for foreign students. It is possible that certain conditions are attached to these scholarships. In the Netherlands

[1] More detailed information is to be found in The student handbook (1990:6).

[2] Information of the NUFFIC in The Hague.

[3] NRC Handelsblad, 28.9.91.

[4] Ibidem.

only holders of an academic degree or students who have been studying for several years, can apply for the scholarship. The scholarship's maximum duration is nine months. In France, cultural agreement scholarships are primarely intended for post-graduate students.
Finally, in a number of EC member states there are other scholarships for foreign EC students. In Germany, certain national organizations do provide scholarships for foreign students. These are granted on the basis of academic achievement in the majority of cases. The applicant's social situation plays a subordinate role. In the United Kingdom, the British Council provides awards to foreign EC post-graduate students. And in Ireland, there are a number of scholarships of interest which are exclusively available to students from EC countries.
Foreign EC students who want to obtain information on financial assistance and scholarships can get in touch with the embassies, consulates or other institutions (such as the Goethe Institutes or British Councils) in their home country, or write to the Ministries of Education of the various member states.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

The majority of EC member states have special entry and residence regulations for foreign EC students. The regulations vary, depending on the length of the stay. Very often the regulations change, if the student wants to stay longer than three (or sometimes six) months.
The documents needed for a longer stay, are shown in table 12. The most important are:

I. a valid passport or identity card.
II. proof of registration at a higher education institution.
III. proof of health insurance.
IV. proof of sufficient funds.
V. proof of accommodation.

Table 12 Entry and residence regulations for foreign EC students, who want to stay longer than 3 or 6 months

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
II	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
III						*		*		*		
IV	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*
V					*	*					*	

Besides these documents, foreign EC students going to Portugal need a medical certificate and a certificate of good behaviour. In Italy, (a certified translation of) the secondary school-leaving certificate is needed. Finally, the entry and residence regulations of Greece are not very clear.

All member states, except Greece and Italy, demand proof of sufficient funds. In practice this means that the students have to be able to pay for their study and the normal cost of living. Only a few countries give specifications of the amount of money the students should have (1990-1991):

France	FRF 2,300 a month
Spain	ESP 37,822 a month
The Netherlands	NLG 13,000 a year

If a student receives a grant, he has to show the official award. In most cases, foreign EC students need a financial guarantee from a private person, for instance his parents.

Foreign EC students have to report to local police stations or city halls in the different countries where they must show the required documents and will receive a residence permit. In most countries, this has to be done within eight days after arrival. In some countries, students have to report after three (Denmark) or even six (GB) months.

Up to 1993 Spanish and Portuguese students will continue to be given different treatment to other foreign EC students in both the United Kingdom and France. On arrival in the UK, they need to show immigration staff evidence of full-time study and sufficient funds. In France, Spanish and Portuguese students have to apply for a special entry visa through the French embassy in their country.

In general, it is not necessary for foreign EC exchange students who intend to stay in another EC member state for only a short period of time (three months, sometimes six), to follow any special procedures.
However, in a number of member states like the Netherlands, Italy and Luxembourg, the foreign EC short term students officially have to report to a local institution and show their passport and proof of registration at a higher education institution.
In practice the vast majority of foreign EC short term students do not have to follow any procedures with regard to the entry and residence requirements of the country in which they are staying.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is an important issue in the discussion about access to higher education within the European Community. A good and affordable health insurance is indispensable to foreign EC students. Accidents can always happen and a student might become seriously ill. If a foreign EC student has to undergo extensive medical treatment, he will be faced with enormous bills. If not effectively covered by health insurance, this will naturally create huge financial problems.

The different member states of the European Community have different health care systems. In countries like the United Kingdom, all citizens enjoy free medical care. Countries like Greece have free health care especially for students. In others, e.g. Belgium and the Netherlands, health insurance is compulsory.

In principle, foreign EC students have two possibilities open to them with respect to health insurance. The first possibility is to take their national health insurance abroad by means of a so-called E-111 form. If this is not possible, they will have to take out private health insurance.

Table 13 Student health insurance in the European Community

I compulsory health insurance
II special student health insurance

	B	DK	D	G	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
I	*		*			*		*		*		
II					*	*				*		

8.1. National health insurance

Every EC citizen who is entitled to national health care in his home country has the same rights as the insured persons in other member states.
The E-111 form is a declaration of the right of health insurance for EC citizens during their stay in another member state of the European Community. Originally, the form was part of the social security system for EC citizens, employed in other member states. However, in practice it is accepted everywhere as a valid form for foreign EC students.
Foreign EC students, who are insured with the national health scheme at home and who are going to study in another member state, can fill in this E-111 form before departure. If the students incur medical expenses during their stay abroad, these will be refunded upon presenting the E-111 form to the national health service of the member state concerned.
This option of taking your national health insurance abroad with you, is very appealing to foreign EC students. There is no compulsory waiting period before foreign EC students can use their insurance and it involves little or no costs.

However, there are some restrictions. In Germany, for instance, the E-111 regulations do not apply to students who are over 30 years. This means older students have to take out private insurance.

Table 14 National health services / where to go in the EC?

B	Gewestelijke dienst van de Hulpkas voor ziekte- en invaliditeitsverzekering / Office regionale de la Caisse auxiliaire d'assurance maladie-invalidité
DK	local city councils
D	Verwaltung der Sozialversicherung des Bundesvorstandes des Freien Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes
G	Idryma Koinonikon Asphaliseon
E	Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social
F	Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie
IRL	Health Board
I	Unitá Sanitaria Locale
L	Caisse nationale d'assurance maladie des ouvriers
NL	Ziekenfonds
P	Serviço Médico Sociais or one of the Unidades clinicas
UK	National Health Service

8.2. Private health insurance

For various reasons foreign EC students might have to take out private health insurance. This could be the case if they are not insured by a national health scheme in their own country because they are too old.
Compared to health insurance covered by an E-111 form, a private health insurance is less appealing to foreign EC students. Firstly, private insurance is rather expensive. In Germany, foreign EC students have to pay DEM 394 per semester. In the Netherlands, special private health insurance for foreign students costs NLG 60,– a month, and in Belgium BEF 599 a month. Furthermore, most private insurances only come into effect after a probationary period of six months at the most.

Furthermore, in some countries a third-party liability insurance is asked for. In France this is a general rule. In Belgium and the Netherlands a number of higher education institutions demand such an insurance.

9. COST OF LIVING

Although it is not an issue affecting access to higher education directly, the cost of living in the different member states of the Community might influence the foreign EC student's decision to go abroad.

Table 15 Average cost of living for students in the different member states (for one year), 1990-1991

B	4,260 - 5,112	ECU
DK	7,572	ECU
D	5,258 - 6,718	ECU
G	3,112 - 5,187	ECU
E	6,5223	ECU
F	5,162 - 8,603	ECU
IRL	4,551 - 5,201	ECU
I	6,262 - 7,827	ECU
L	5,680	ECU
NL	5,403 - 5,835	ECU
P	3,372 - 4,720	ECU
UK	6,873	ECU

The sums in table 15 only involve basic needs, such as rent, heating, lighting, food, clothing and transport costs.
The Department of Education and Science in the United Kingdom has divided the countries students often go to into four categories to determine the rate of the supplementary grant:

I. highest-cost countries: Denmark;
II. higher-cost countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands;
III. high-cost countries: Italy, Luxembourg;
IV. all other countries.[1]

This categorization gives some impression of the comparable cost of living in the different EC member states.

In a lot of countries the cost of living in the capital is considerably higher than in the rest of the country. This is mainly caused by the high rents in capitals, such as London and Paris, compared to other cities. A foreign EC student might therefore decide to choose a higher education institution outside the capital.

[1]Grants to students. A brief guide, 1990-1991 (Department of Education and Science).

10. ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation aspect will be discussed only very briefly, because a complete study on the accommodation problem in general and on accommodation of Erasmus students in particular has recently been published.[1]
Like the cost of living, accommodation is not an element which affects access to higher education directly, but it might in some cases influence the student's choice for a country of destination.

10.1. Foreign EC transfer students

With respect to accommodation, foreign EC transfer students are usually treated the same as the national students of a country. This means they will have to find a room in the same way as national students and they will also have the same possibilities.
In the majority of EC member states, students can choose between two types of accommodation: university accommodation or private accommodation.
University accommodation consists of rooms in halls of residence or other on-campus facilities. These rooms are almost always furnished (this is not the case in the Netherlands and Denmark. Compared to private accommodation the rooms are relatively cheap. But in virtually all member states the number of rooms is insufficient to accommodate all national and foreign students. Although in some countries priority is given to foreign students, this situation forces many foreign students to rent rooms on the private market. Private rooms are much more expensive than comparable university accommodation.

10.2. Foreign EC exchange students

If foreign EC exchange students are to benefit from their relatively brief visits to other countries, their social needs have to be met. The most important of these is the need for adequate accommodation.
The accommodation issue causes specific problems for exchange students. They cannot afford to waste time searching for, and adjusting to, their accommodation.[2]
If the foreign EC exchange students are going abroad in the framework of an official bilateral or EC programme, they can very often make arrangements for their accommodation before departure. Some higher education institutions in the European Community even guarantee foreign EC exchange students accommodation in advance. Most of these foreign EC exchange students are in practice accommodated in university rooms.
Foreign EC exchange students who must look for a room when they arrive in their country of destination, may have a lot of trouble finding accommodation. First of all landlords do not like to rent a room for only a short period of time. Furthermore, if the

[1] E. Berning, Accommodation of Erasmus students in the member states of the European Community (München 1991).

[2] Ibidem.

exchange student arrives in the middle of the academic year, almost all rooms have already been rented out.
In the Netherlands a special project, called "ROOFS", has started to solve these problems. Through ROOFS Dutch exchange students going abroad sublet their rooms to foreign students coming to the Netherlands. This system is relatively cheap and the foreign student lives among Dutch students in a Dutch house. The project is a big success and the students themselves are very enthousiastic about it.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

In general there are no rules and regulations concerning the academic and social guidance of foreign EC students in the member states of the European Community.

11.1. Foreign EC transfer students

When foreign EC transfer students arrive in their country of destination, they will of course be absorbed in the regular system of academic and social guidance of the higher education institution concerned. They receive a student card, which gives them the same rights national students have. They enjoy reductions on public transport, at cultural events etc. The student card also gives them access to university facilities, like sports accommodation and restaurants. The bigger the higher education institution, the better and more extensive the facilities.

11.2. Foreign EC exchange students

Most higher education institutions in the Community have made special arrangements concerning the academic and social guidance of foreign EC exchange students. These arrangements of course are most elaborate in member states/higher education institutions that receive a lot of foreign students.
The social guidance of the students often consists of special introduction days and mentor-systems, connecting national and foreign students. The international "Erasmus Student Network" plays a very important role in this respect. Although the foreign EC exchange students are not officially registered at their host institutions, in most cases they receive a temporary student card. This way they enjoy the same reductions and facilities as their national counterparts. The respective coordinators/professors at their home and host institutions take care of the academic guidance of the foreign EC exchange student.

For both foreign EC transfer and exchange students the key problem concerning academic and social guidance seems to be the lack of information on living and studying abroad, available at the home institutions. Students cannot get the information they need with respect to general living aspects (housing, cost of living etc.) and more academic aspects, such as the kinds of courses available, the language used etc.
This enormous lack of information causes a lot of problems and disappointments. At the moment students very often leave their home institution with the wrong expectations and ideas.[1]

[1]This problem was mentioned very often by the foreign EC students we interviewed.

FINAL REMARKS

Internationalisation and student mobility have become major issues in the field of higher education. The legal situation with respect to access to higher education within the European Community has become clear by means of a series of EC laws, such as the directive on the right of residence for students, and precedent setting court cases, such as the Gravier case. Today, EC students have a right to study wherever they wish.
The new legal setting has many implications for the individual member states and there are still a lot of financial and practical problems to be solved. Not all obstacles concerning access to higher education have as yet been removed and new ones have been created.
Over the last decade much has been achieved in the field of internationalisation of higher education and student mobility. Still, improvements can be made. In the Luxembourg proposal (June 1991) for the education section of the new European Community treaty, a number of improvements are mentioned: language teaching, more academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study, cooperation between higher education institutions and exchange of information and experiences between the different EC education systems.[1]

The preceding paragraphs of this study have been highly descriptive. In these final remarks we will discuss some major themes that arose from this study in a more analytic way. The guideline for this discussion is obviously the principle of free access to the higher education systems of all member states for qualified foreign EC students.
We will present two dilemmas with respect to free access, which seem almost impossible to solve in the present higher education structure and legal setting. We will try to give a well-defined description of these dilemmas. Furthermore, a number of relatively less complicated problems will be listed. An attempt will be made to formulate directions of possible solutions.

The dilemma of the imbalance of student flows and the financing of higher education

The growing mobility of students within the European Community is accompanied by an imbalance of student flows. This imbalance is caused by a number of factors. The extent of flexibility of the national higher education systems should be mentioned as one of the major factors. This flexibility varies from strictly selective to completely open systems.
Countries like Belgium and Italy are characterized by an open higher education system. A large number of places within the system allows such an open policy. The existence of selective systems has several reasons. In countries like Portugal and Greece, the higher education system still has a limited capacity, which explains the strict numerus clausus regulations. In the United Kingdom on the other hand, the selectiveness is inherent in the higher education system itself: the institutions are autonomous and set their own rules concerning entry requirements and regulations.
In member states with an open higher education system the inflow of foreign EC students

[1] Staatscourant, 30.8.91.

will be larger than the outflow. In member states with a selective system the outflow of students is larger than the inflow.[1]
The financial issue that arises from this imbalance of student flows is the question of who has to pay for the education of foreign EC students. Clearly not all member states with open systems wish to pay for the education of foreign EC students and thus indirectly finance the higher education systems of other member states.
However, when they really keep their borders open - creating maximum circumstances for free movement - the member states are penalised for their policy with a considerable bill.
In practice a number of member states try to regulate the student flows by building in extra impediments. In Italy (since 1989) and Denmark for instance, foreign EC transfer students need a secondary school-leaving certificate to gain access to higher education and must have passed any compulsory entry examinations that exist in their home country. This situation in practice applies to students from Greece and Spain. As most of the foreign EC transfer students are students who have not been able to pass the entry examinations, this requirement is an obstacle to free movement.

Clearly this is an undesirable development and solutions should be sought.
The most obvious solution would be to equalize the in- and outflows of students. But building in artificial impediments to curb student flows in certain directions would be contrary to European law. Furthermore, the imbalance of student flows partly originates from the fact that certain member states still have a higher education system with a limited capacity. This situation cannot be changed overnight.
Furthermore, it should be mentioned that the argument of some member states that they are paying for the education of other member states might be untrue to a certain extent. The argument seems correct if the foreign EC transfer students return to their home country immediately after their graduation. However, in a number of cases this might very well not be the case. Foreign students who stay in the host country contribute to the GNP of that country and the investment could easily be profitable both for the student and the host country.
No statistics are available to indicate whether this is a regular occurrence. If so, it could undermine the actual argument and thereby resolve the dilemma.

The dilemma of unequal entry requirements

The report shows that the entry requirements to gain access to higher education in the different member states are unequal. The essence of this dilemma is formed by the existence of two different basic assumptions upon which the entry requirements for foreign EC students are based. In some member states the foreign EC student is treated like the national student of the host country. In other member states the entry requirements for the foreign EC student are based on the requirements the student has to meet in his home country.
Both points of departure have their merits and demerits. The disadvantages of the first principle are made clear by the following example. In the Netherlands there are various entry requirements for university and non-university higher education courses. In Denmark on the other hand, one diploma provides access to all higher education courses. This

[1]The United Kingdom however, is an exception to this rule. The high inflow into the UK can be explained by the English language and the fact that the United Kingdom receives a high number of students from former colonies.

situation has far-reaching consequences for a Dutch transfer student wanting to study in Denmark. To gain access to a non-university higher education course in the Netherlands, the Dutch student needs a HAVO-diploma. However, to gain access to the same non-university higher education course in Denmark the Dutch student has to have a diploma equivalent to the Danish school-leaving certificate. This means that the HAVO-diploma is suddenly inadequate. The Dutch student now needs the Dutch VWO-diploma, providing access to university courses in the Netherlands.
The disadvantages of the second principle are shown by the example of Greek transfer students who want to study in Italy. According to the Italian entry requirements, the Greek students must have passed the Greek entry examinations to obtain access to the Italian higher education system. As most of the Greek students, going abroad, are students who have not been able to pass the entry examinations, this requirement is an obstacle to free access.

It is obvious that a choice for one of these two basic assumptions upon which the entry requirements for foreign EC students are based, cannot be made. Within the present framework, this dilemma cannot easily be solved. But it might be possible to solve the most striking inequalities, that occur in practice, by giving soft incentives (mor information, strengthening of networks) in the direction of certain member states. And perhaps part of the problem can already be solved by a more efficient dissemination of information.

The problem of the non-university sector of higher education

With respect to free access, a major problem that should be solved on a European level concerns access especially to non-university institutions. Student mobility within the non-university sector of the higher education system still remains relatively low compared to mobility within the university sector. Partly, this situation results from the traditional objectives of the two sectors. Universities are internationally oriented. They offer academic education and carry out academic research. Traditionally international contacts and networks are very important on this level. Non-university higher education institutions on the other hand, do not have this international tradition. They train students for specific professions. According to the traditional view, there is rarely any benefit to be gained from looking abroad. However, there often are no real arguments for this opinion.
These are not the only causes of low non-university mobility. Access to non-university institutions is being obstructed by the enormous lack of information on non-university higher education courses in the European Community. The obscurity of course contents and structures in the different member states faces foreign EC transfer and exchange students with huge problems with respect to recognition issues and entry requirements.

Within the European Community there is an obvious need to generate a better information circuit concerning the non-university sector of higher education. Furthermore, the member states should try to reach more agreements on the recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study with respect to non-university studies.

The problem of lack of information for foreign EC students

The report shows that the amount of information on higher education in other EC member states available at the students' home institutions is inadequate. Foreign EC students very often leave their home country insufficiently informed. This situation can lead to a lot of practical problems and disappointments.

This problem can be solved by improving the information flows between higher education institutions which receive and send students. Personal contact between exchange network coordinators seems to be very rewarding in this respect.

The problem of language barriers

The problem of language barriers is a traditional obstacle to student mobility and access to higher education. The existence of language barriers seems to be one of the causes of the imbalance of student flows within the European Community.

A lot is already being done to reduce these barriers. More and better language courses at reasonable costs would help. Furthermore, member states with minority languages could decide to offer (more) higher education courses for foreign EC students in English and/or French. A lot of higher education institutions want to offer such courses, but in practice this sometimes turns out to be in conflict with the constitution of the member state concerned. For instance, in the French part of Belgium all courses still have to be taught in French, in Denmark the compulsory courses must be taught in Danish and in Italy the compulsory language is Italian.

The emergence of new problems

Until now we have discussed the dilemmas and problems that hinder free access to higher education within the European Community. Finally, we would like to demonstrate that the principles of free access and non-discrimination also create new problems.

The fact that foreign EC students according to European law have to be treated equally to their national counterparts does not always automatically result in a better position of these students in practice. In the report this statement has been illustrated by a German example. As a result of European law the foreign EC transfer students in Germany have been taken out of the reserved quota for foreign students. This means that foreign EC transfer students now have to go into direct competition with their German counterparts to gain access to the German higher education system. It is feared that this will become an unequal fight.

The increase of student mobility within the European Community might in some cases also have a negative effect on student mobility outside the Community. This can be illustrated by a British example. The Commonwealth fears that developing countries which depend on advanced countries' specialist education - and which cut back on study abroad after Britain introduced full-cost fees a decade ago - are losing out. While the number of foreign EC and non-EC students in Britain rose by 24 % between 1985 and 1988, much of the increase was in home fee paying foreign EC students, whose numbers rose by 115 % to 14,622. In contrast, the number of African students declined by 22 % to fewer than 7,900. Just three years earlier African students outnumbered Europeans by nearly 3,300.[1]

With respect to free access within the Community, policy makers should always guard against creating new problems.

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[1] Time Higher Education Supplement: "Europeans crowd out African students", 28.6.91.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH
LEIDEN, THE NETHERLANDS

737/13-3-1991

THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

The Institute for Policy Research (Research voor Beleid) is a Dutch institute which specializes in policy research, i.e. research which aims to find practical solutions to policy questions facing governments, government agencies and organizations in the non-profit-making and profit-making sectors.

IPR was established as a foundation in 1980. In a very short time, it has developed into one of the largest research institutes in the Netherlands. In 1988, the foundation was converted into a private company.

IPR conducts both quantitative and qualitative research. Among the quantitative methods at the disposal of the institute are panel research, omnibus research, scanning research, ad hoc research and continuous research. Possibilities for qualitative research methods include interviews with experts, group discussions, observation, experiments and hall tests, both at our offices and on location.

Most of the research is done on behalf of principals in the Netherlands. A growing number of research projects, however, extend beyond this country's borders. In recent years, several projects have been carried out on behalf of the European Commission. In the course of its international activities, IPR has made numerous contacts with government departments and fellow institutes in the EEC and other countries. These serve as an important source of information for international comparative studies.

THE ERASMUS PROGRAMME

The Erasmus programme was adopted by the Council on June 15 1987. The programme was adopted in answer to the wish of the Ministers of Education of the European Community to increase the mobility of students and teachers in higher education. Additional measures and actions besides the Member States' own initiatives were considered to be necessary.

The main goals of Erasmus are formulated in the programme of action and aim at greater mobility of students and teachers, cooperation between universities of the Member States, the strengthening of relations between citizens in the Member States, and the creation of a body of highly educated, internationally oriented people.

The action programme contains four important items:

- the establishment of a European university network by financially supporting the so-called ICPs (Interuniversity Cooperation Programmes);
- the system of Erasmus grants is usually awarded by NGAAs (National Grant Awarding Authorities);
- the recognition of academic entrance and intermediate qualifications; to reach this goal, the European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS) is being developed. In 1989 ECTS began in five subject areas, for a period of six years. In the first year of

the pilot scheme, eighty-one institutions and three consortia participated in the system, as well as 569 students;
- supplementary measures to stimulate student mobility (stipends, awards, the right to publish, etc.).

The 1989 annual report of the Erasmus programme shows certain positive developments, in accordance with the aim of the programme:
- there are a growing number of ICPs (from 1,091 in 88/89 to 1,507 in 89/90);
- student mobility is also growing (12,000 students in 88/89 and 28,000 in 89/90).

The annual report indicates that, despite the growing number of students in the programme, only 2 % of the total number of students in the Member States is taking part. The target is 10 % of the total number of students. The report also shows that considerable funds remain, these are to be used by the ICPs.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON HIGHER EDUCATION

In June 1990, the European Community requested assistance for two comparative studies on access and mobility in higher education in the European Community. The Institute for Policy Research in Leiden will carry out this research in consultation with the European Commission and the Erasmus Bureau in Brussels.

Project 1: Student mobility within higher education in the European Community

This study aims to provide a statistical overview of European Community students following higher education courses in other Member States, outside the Erasmus programme. It will include both students studying abroad on their own initiative and those using existing Community, bilateral or national programmes.

In order to study student mobility in higher education in the European Community, it is important to define the different groups of students involved. Roughly four categories of students can be discerned:
1. Students participating in European Community programmes, like ERASMUS, LINGUA (EC programme for the promotion of the teaching and learning of foreign languages within the Community) and COMETT (EC programme on cooperation between universities and the business community regarding training in the field of technology).
2. Students participating in bilateral or national mobility programmes.
3. Student mobility stimulated by universities, faculties or professors.
4. Students acting on their own initiative.

The most essential part of the study is the statistical overview of student mobility. This quantitative research can be divided into three specific questions:
- How many students study at a foreign institution of higher education?
- To which Member State of the European Community do they go?
- Which subject do they study?

Special attention will be paid to the underlying methodological matters concerning the statistics (definitions, sources etc.).

The statistical analysis of student mobility within the European Community will evoke other questions, which require a more qualitative approach. Some of those questions might be:

- How long do students stay abroad?
- Do they follow a full course or do they only spend a part of their study abroad?
- Do they participate in special mobility programmes (EC, bilateral, national) and if so, which ones?
- What funds do the students have at their disposal?

Project 2: Access to higher education in the European Community

This study aims to give a comprehensive and comparative review of both the present policies and practices of access to higher education institutions in the Member States of the European Community. On the one hand the developments in recent years will be described, on the other hand the study will try to give a survey of planned policy changes.

The structure of the study is twofold. The first part of the research consists of the admission of students with qualifications from the Member State concerned. This part is relatively well-known and will be used as a frame of reference for the second and most important part of the study, namely the admission of students with qualifications from other Member States.

The relevant information needed for this research is to be found at different organizational levels (international, national and institutional). A distinction can also be made between the different parties involved, namely the governmental and the academic world. The governmental institutions will be able to supply adequate information on official rules and regulations concerning access to higher education. The academic representatives can give insight into the de facto position with respect to access.

The second and most extensive part of the study consists of the admission of students with qualifications from other Member States. To give a reliable survey many elements have to be taken into consideration (like scholarships, entry and residence regulations, recognition of foreign certificates, language requirements, accommodation, application procedures and cost of living). Some research topics deal with the official regulations, whereas others are of a practical nature.

The information required to answer these questions will be furnished by a range of institutions and informants. Useful documents might be: official documents, information brochures on higher education for foreign students and general information brochures for foreign students.

NATIONAL VISITS

Within the framework of these two research projects all Member States of the European Community will be visited. These visits will take approximately three days. During the visits, three categories of informants will be interviewed: representatives from the governmental world and both staff and student representatives from the academic world.

Naturally these visits to Member States will be very important for the research. In particular the interviews with key-informants from the academic world will give us a good insight into the practice of admission of students with qualifications from other Member States.

The experiences of foreign students themselves might be the most important. Usually social contacts between foreign students are frequent. Therefore interviewing some will give an indication of the problems experienced by many.

Institute for Policy Research, Leiden
February 1991

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ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
TOPICS FOR THE INTERVIEW

We would like to discuss each of the following topics separately for four different groups of students:

A. National students.
B. Foreign EC students with national secondary school qualifications of your country.
C. Short-term exchange students from EC countries.
D. Foreign EC students who complete an entire course in higher education in your country. (Transfer Students)

1. Entry requirements and Limitations

In order to be admitted to an institution of higher education, students must satisfy certain requirements. First and foremost they should have the right secondary school qualifications. In some cases, they have to pass an entrance examination or an interview before being admitted. We would like to know more about the actual situation and the rules and regulations governing the conditions of entry into higher education for foreign students in your country. We would also like some information on conditions that your national students have been subject to in other countries in order to study abroad.

Some subject areas or courses are bound by numerus clausus regulations. Foreign students may also be confronted with these or other limitations. We would like to know whether such measures are in force.

2. Recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and periods of study

The recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and, most of all, periods of study is a precondition for successful student exchanges. Sometimes these regulations are not very clear and there may be variations between the rules and regulations on paper and the situation in practice. Since academic recognition is a relevant aspect of student mobility we are interested to know how this is dealt with in your country.

3. Application and registration

The application and registration of foreign students takes a lot of time and organization. In some cases language barriers can cause extra problems and delays. We are interested to discover the procedures governing application and registration in your country.

4. Tuition fees

Within the European Community, the amount of tuition fees varies considerably from one member state to another. In some countries, foreign students are required to pay higher fees than the national students. We would like to gain some insight into the situation in your country.

5. Student grants and the cost of living

The amount of money a foreign student has at his or her disposal and the cost of living in the host country are important factors in the student's decision whether or not to study abroad. In this respect the various national grants systems within the European Community play an important role. We would like an outline of your national grants system and the level of an average Erasmus grant. We would also like to have an indication of the cost of living in your country.

6. Host institution guidance

In principle, the host institution begins its guidance of the foreign student from the moment that the institution accepts him or her. Guidance is necessary before and during the student's stay abroad. We would like information concerning the official procedures and the actual situation in your country.

7. Language requirements

Language problems are one of the most important impediments with respect to international student exchange. Some EC member states attempt to avoid these problems by submitting all foreign students to a proficiency test before allowing them to study. Most countries offer language courses for foreigners. We are interested in the official requirements and the current practice in your country.

8. Accommodation

Student accommodation is difficult to find in virtually all member states of the European Community. In some cases, foreign students receive accommodation on campus, in other cases they have to depend on the open market. Accommodation costs are one of the most important items on the foreign student's budget. We are interested in an outline of the various possibilities, costs and procedures concerning accommodation for foreign students in your country.

9. Entry and residence regulations

Each country has its own specific entry formalities. These regulations depend on the nationality of the foreigner and the length and purpose of the visit. For employment abroad a work permit may be needed. We are interested in information concerning the rules, regulations and actual situation.

10. Health insurance

In most cases health insurance is compulsory. Sometimes foreign students have automatic access to a national health scheme. We would like an outline of the national rules and regulations governing health insurance for foreign students.

11. Social services and social life

A lot of institutions have international student clubs or networks and special advice centres for foreigners. In some countries, foreign students can also benefit from discounts on public transport, for cultural events etc. We would like to know what official arrangements exist and the actual situation in your country.

737/9-4-91

CHECKLIST GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

A. NATIONAL STUDENTS

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- which secondary school qualifications give access to higher education?
- are there any official rules and procedures in general with respect to entrance examinations or personal interviews prior to admission to higher education?
- are there any official numerus clausus regulations in force in your country?
- if so, concerning which courses, subject areas or institutions?
- what kind of selection method is used officially?

5. Student grants and cost of living

- how much money does the average student in your country get through the national grants system?

B. FOREIGN EC-STUDENTS WITH NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUR COUNTRY

- are these students treated as national students?
- if not, what are the differences?

C. SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENTS

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- are there any official rules and procedures concerning special examinations or interviews for foreign students who want to study in your country?
- who officially decides whether or not to examine or interview foreign students (government, institutions themselves)?
- do the numerus clausus regulations also apply to foreign students, or are there any special regulations for them?
- is there an officially fixed maximum percentage of foreign students upon the total number of students?
- if so, are there any differences between individual institutions or courses?
- what kind of selection method is used?

2. Recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

- what are the official regulations and procedures?
- who in practice makes the final decision (government, institutions)?

3. Application and registration

- what are the official rules and procedures?
- what is the time span involved?
- in which language does the student have to apply officially?
- which documents are officially required?
- are there any differences concerning the rules and procedures with respect to application and registration between the institutions?

4. Tuition fees

- what is the height of the fees for foreign students and is it different from the amount national students have to pay?
- when do they officially have to be paid?
- can the fees be paid in installments?

5. Student grants and cost of living

- how large is the average Erasmus-grant in your country?
- do the grants include any free language courses, free train/bus/plane tickets, etc.?
- what is the minimum budget for foreign students?
- are there any differences between parts of the country?

6. Host institution guidance

- do any official rules and procedures exist concerning guidance by the host institution?
- if so, what are the contents of those rules and procedures?
- who made them (the European Commission / national department / institutions themselves)?

7. Language requirements

- what are the official language requirements?
- do foreign students have to pass a proficiency test before being admitted?
- are there any language courses organized by the institutions for higher education themselves or by other institutes?

8. Accommodation

- do official rules and regulations concerning the accommodation of foreign students exist on a national level?
- what is the actual situation concerning accommodation in your country?
- what are the official facilities (on campus, hostels) in your country?

- does the government subsidize accommodation for foreign students offered by the institutions?

9. Entry and residence regulations

- does a foreign student need a residence permit?
- what are the official rules and procedures?
- which official documents are required?

10. Health insurance and third-party insurance

- what are the official rules ad regulations concerning health/third-party insurance for foreign students?
- is insurance compulsory?
- does your country offer any national health scheme or students' insurance fund to foreign students?
- what are the insurance costs for the student?

11. Social services and social life

- are there any official rules or procedures concerning social services for foreign students on a national level (automatic reduction on public transport, advice centres etc.)?

D. TRANSFER STUDENTS: FOREIGN EC-STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE AN ENTIRE COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN YOUR COUNTRY

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- are there any official rules and procedures concerning special examinations or interviews for foreign students who want to study in your country?
- who officially decides whether or not to examine or interview foreign students (government, institutions themselves)?
- do the numerus clausus regulations also apply to foreign students, or are there any special regulations for them?
- is there an officially fixed maximum percentage of foreign students upon the total number of students?
- if so, are there any differences between individual institutions or courses?
- what kind of selection method is used?
- are numerus clausus regulations in the home country an important motive for foreign students to study in your country, and vice versa?

2. Recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

- what are the official regulations and procedures?
- who in practice makes the final decision (government, institutions)?

3. Application and registration

- what are the official rules and procedures?
- what is the time span involved?
- in which language does the student have to apply officially?
- which documents are officially required?
- are there any differences concerning the rules and procedures with respect to application and registration between the institutions?

4. Tuition fees

- what is the height of the fees for foreign students and is it different from the amount national students have to pay?
- when do they officially have to be paid?
- can the fees be paid in installments?

7. Language requirements

- what are the official language requirements?
- do foreign students have to pass a proficiency test before being admitted?
- are there any language courses organized by the institutions for higher education themselves or by other institutes?

8. Accommodation

- do official rules and regulations concerning the accommodation of foreign students exist on a national level?
- what is the actual situation concerning accommodation in your country?
- what are the official facilities (on campus, hostels) in your country?
- does the government subsidize accommodation for foreign students offered by the institutions?

9. Entry and residence regulations

- does a foreign student need a residence permit?
- what are the official rules and procedures?
- which official documents are required?

10. Health insurance and third-party insurance

- what are the official rules ad regulations concerning health/third-party insurance for foreign students?
- is insurance compulsory?
- does your country offer any national health scheme or students' insurance fund to foreign students?
- what are the insurance costs for the student?

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CHECKLIST ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES

A. NATIONAL STUDENTS

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- are there any official rules and procedures made by your institution with respect to entrance examinations or personal interviews prior to admission?
- are there any official numerus clausus regulations in force at your institution?
- if so, concerning which courses or subject areas?
- what kind of selection method is used officially?

B. FOREIGN EC-STUDENTS WITH NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS OF YOUR COUNTRY

- are these students treated as national students?
- if not, what are the differences?

C. SHORT TERM EXCHANGE STUDENTS

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- are there any official rules and procedures concerning special examinations or interviews for foreign students who want to study at your institution?
- who's decision was that (government, institution)?
- do the numerus clausus regulations also apply to foreign students, or are there any special numerus clausus regulations for them?
- is there an officially fixed maximum percentage of foreign students upon the total number of students?
- if so, are there any differences between subject areas or courses?
- what kind of selection method is used?
- are foreign students often confronted with these limitations in practice?

2. Recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

- what are the official regulations and procedures?
- are there in practice any problems concerning the recognition of credit points?
- are there in practice any problems concerning the comparability of marks (range 1-10/1-20/1-30 etc.)?
- do students in general obtain less credit points abroad than they would have, if they had stayed in their own country?

3. Application and registration

- what are the official rules and procedures at your institution?
- what is the time span involved, officially and in practice?
- in which language does the student have to apply officially?
- which documents are officially required?
- does the student in practice have to attend to the application and registration him/herself?

4. Tuition fees

- what is the height of the fees at your institution for foreign students and is it different from the amount national students have to pay?
- when do they officially have to be paid?
- can the fees be paid in installments?

5. Student grants and cost of living

- how large is the average Erasmus-grant in your country?
- do the grants include any free language courses, free train/bus/plane tickets, etc.?
- what is the minimum budget for foreign students at your institution?
- do the foreign students at your institution in practice have enough money?
- if not, what are the causes?

6. Host institution guidance

- do any official rules and procedures exist concerning guidance of foreign students by your institution?
- if so, what are the contents of those rules and procedures?
- who made them (the European Commission/national department/your institution)?
- are there in practice any differences between the faculties/departments of your institution?

7. Language requirements

- what are the official language requirements at your institution?
- do foreign students have to pass a proficiency test before being admitted?
- does your institution organize any language courses?
- when do these courses start and how much do they cost?
- do language barriers in practice cause a lot of problems for foreign students at your institution?

8. Accommodation

- what are the official rules and procedures concerning accommodation for foreign students at your institution?
- do foreign students have to pay higher rents than national students?
- what kind of facilities does your institution offer foreign students?
- how high are the average monthly rents for foreign students?
- do foreign students in practice have to take action before going abroad?
- is it in practice easy for foreign students to find accommodation in this city?

9. Entry and residence regulations

- do foreign students in practice get a residence permit?
- what are the procedures?
- does the host institution lend any assistance to the students?

10. Health insurance and third-party insurance

- do all foreign students have these insurances?
- what are the procedures in practice?
- does health/third-party insurance cause any problems for foreign students?
- what are the costs for the student?

11. Social services and social life

- are there any official rules or procedures concerning social services for foreign students at your institution?
- what is the situation in practice?

D. TRANSFER STUDENTS: FOREIGN EC-STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE AN ENTIRE COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN YOUR COUNTRY

1. Entry requirements and limitations

- are there any official rules and procedures concerning special examinations or interviews for foreign students who want to study at your institution?
- who's decision was that (government, institution)?
- do the numerus clausus regulations also apply to foreign students, or are there any special numerus clausus regulations for them?
- is there an officially fixed maximum percentage of foreign students upon the total number of students?
- if so, are there any differences between subject areas or courses?
- what kind of selection method is used?
- are foreign students often confronted with these limitations in practice?
- are numerus clausus regulations in their home country an important motive for foreign students to study in your country and vice versa?

2. Recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

- what are the official regulations and procedures?
- are there in practice any problems concerning the recognition of foreign certificates?

3. Application and registration

- what are the official rules and procedures at your institution?
- what is the time span involved, officially and in practice?
- in which language does the student have to apply officially?
- which documents are officially required?
- does the student in practice have to attend to the application and registration him/herself?

4. Tuition fees

- what is the height of the fees at your institution for foreign students and is it different from the amount national students have to pay?
- when do they officially have to be paid?
- can the fees be paid in installments?

7. Language requirements

- what are the official language requirements at your institution?
- do foreign students have to pass a proficiency test before being admitted?
- does your institution organize any language courses?
- when do these courses start and how much do they cost?
- do language barriers in practice cause a lot of problems for foreign students at your institution?

8. Accommodation

- what are the official rules and procedures concerning accommodation for foreign students at your institution?
- what kind of facilities does your institution offer foreign students?
- how high are the average monthly rents for foreign students?
- do foreign students have to pay higher rents than national students?
- do foreign students in practice have to take action before going abroad?
- is it in practice easy for foreign students to find accommodation in this city?

9. Entry and residence regulations

- do foreign students in practice get a residence permit?
- what are the procedures?
- does the host institution lend any assistance to the students?

10. Health insurance and third-party insurance

- do all foreign students have these insurances?
- what are the procedures in practice?
- does health/third-party insurance cause any problems for foreign students?
- what are the costs for the student?

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CHECKLIST FOREIGN STUDENTS

Personal data
- nationality
- home institution
- subject area
- exchange programme
- length of stay

1. Entry requirements

   - did you have to pass any entrance examinations and if so, on what grounds?
   - have you been interviewed before being admitted to the institution and if so, was this the official procedure?
   - have you in practice been confronted with any numerus clausus regulations?
   - if so, were those regulations specially designed for foreign students?
   - have existing numerus clausus regulations in your home country been a motive for you to study abroad?

2. Recognition of foreign certificates, degrees and periods of study

   - have you been confronted with the recognition of certificates or degrees from your home country by the host country?
   - did you have any problems concerning the comparability of your marks?
   - did your home institution officially garantee the recognition of credit points you would obtain abroad before your departure?
   - did you get full cooperation from the staff at your home institution with regard to the recognition of your credit points and marks?
   - did you obtain less credit points abroad than you would have, if you had stayed in your own country?

3. Application and registration

   - what was the actual procedure with respect to the application and registration at your host institution?
   - have these procedures always been clear to you?
   - how long did it take you to apply and be registered?
   - in which language did you have to apply?
   - which documents were needed?

4. Tuition fees

- did you have to pay tuition fees to study in your host country, and if so, what was the height of these fees?
- did national students have to pay less or just as much as you?
- during your visit abroad, do you pay tuition fees in your home country?

5. Student grants and cost of living

- how much money do you have at your disposal?
- where does the money come from (national grant, Erasmus grant, other)?
- do the grants include any free language courses, free train/bus/plane tickets, etc.?

6. Host institution guidance

- did you get any guidance from your host institution (network coordinator) before you went abroad?
- have you been sufficiently informed of study and other possibilities at your host institution before you went abroad?
- do you get any guidance now?

7. Language requirements

- what were the official language requirements you had to meet to study here?
- did you have to pass a proficiency test before being admitted?
- did you have the opportunity to follow any language courses here or before you went abroad?
- what courses did you follow, when did they start and how much did they cost?
- do you, or did you have any language problems?

8. Accommodation

- how did you find accommodation in this city?
- did you receive any help from your own or your host institution?
- did you have to take action before you went abroad?
- how high is the monthly rent you are paying (higher than country of origin)?
- are you satisfied with your present accommodation?

9. Entry and residence regulations

- do you have a residence permit?
- what did you have to do in order to get it?

10. Health insurance

- do you have a health insurance (national or private)?
- what did you have to do to get your health insurance?
- what are the costs?

11. Social services and social life

- can you make use of any social services offered to you on a national or institutional level?
- what do you think of the social life at your host institution?

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TASK FORCE
HUMAN RESOURCES
EDUCATION
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YOUTH

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

VOL. II

(COUNTRY REPORTS)

COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

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ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

VOL. II

(COUNTRY REPORTS)

This report was prepared for the Commission by J.F.M. de Jonge, I.G. Dillo and R.M. Mertens of the Institute for Policy Research, Leiden (NL). The information it contains does not necessarily reflect either the position or views of the Commission of the European Communities.

Brussels, July 1992.

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BELGIUM

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

The Belgian state is extraordinarily complex. Power is divided between the central state, the cultural communities, the regions, the provinces and the local communities. Education largely belongs to the sectors which fall under the authority of the cultural communities. The central state however, continues to bear responsibility for the education system, namely in all those sectors which have been assigned to it by the constitution. This covers:

- the length of compulsory schooling;
- the minimum contents of degrees/diplomas;
- the pension of members of the teaching staff.

Three forms of institutions have developed in the higher education sector: state, provincial and community, and free (private) institutions. There are two types of higher education institutions: the universities and non-university establishments, like technical, economical or agricultural higher education institutions.
In 1990 Belgium had a student population of about 260,000. The foreign students amounted to about ten percent. Forty percent of the foreign students came from member states of the European Community.

Belgium is divided into three different language areas: a Dutch, French and German area. Although all three regions have been involved in this study, the bulk of information in this country report concerns the Flemish part.
Furthermore, it should be noted that the situation with respect to access to higher education in the Flemish community has changed dramatically since the summer of 1991, due to a new legal decrete. These changes have not been incorporated in this report.[1]

National students

In the Flemish community a national student needs a secondary education leaving-certificate to gain access to all higher education institutions. The Flemish system does not have entrance examinations, except for civil engineering and military schools (national institutions). This examination is held at the institutions themselves and consists of an oral and a written part. The oral examination covers algebra, geometry, analytic geometry and analysis. The written examination tests numerical calculation, trigonometry and analysis.[2] There are no numerus clausus restrictions in the Flemish community. This situation attracts a lot of foreign students, especially Dutch students who have been turned down for medical studies in the Netherlands.
A Walloon student has to have a "diplôme d'aptitude pour l'enseignement supérieur" to gain access to higher education. In the Walloon community an entry examination is required for the following disciplines: civil engineering, military schools and a few other schools. Like the Flemish community, the Walloon provinces do not have any numerus

[1] "Decreet betreffende de universiteiten in de Vlaamse Gemeenschap van 12 juni 1991" (Belgisch Staatsblad 4 juli 1991).

[2] Uw studies aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Algemene informatie, 1991-1992. It should be noted that the contents of the examination might be slightly different at other higher education institutions.

clausus regulations. For this reason a lot of German and French students who have been turned down in their home country come to the Walloon provinces to study medicine.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign nationals (foreigners, resident in Belgium) with a Belgian secondary school leaving-certificate are treated like national students. The same entry requirements apply to them and they have the same financial rights.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign transfer students, wanting to follow and finish a full course or part of a course in Belgium, have to meet certain requirements. The admission requirements for the first year of the first cycle of university studies in Belgium depend on the kind of degree to which the study programme leads. Some terminate normally in a legal degree or, exceptionally, a scientific degree. Other programmes lead only to scientific degrees.

For the studies that lead to a legal degree, both the admission requirements and the programmes themselves are prescribed by Belgian law. To be admitted to the first year of a legal degree programme, the candidate must possess one of the following diplomas or certificates:

- an appropriate Belgian certificate;
- a European baccalaureate or an international baccalaureate issued by the "Office International du Baccalauréat";
- a foreign secondary education diploma recognised by Belgium.

Foreign EC transfer students who do not have one of these diplomas may still be admitted to a legal degree programme if they:

- apply for a declaration of equivalence of the diploma they have;
- take certain examinations in Belgium. Thus, for example, one can be admitted to a legal degree programme by passing an entrance examination for the programmes in mathematics, physics, civil engineering or agricultural engineering or the examination in secondary education that is organised by the Ministry of Education.

If one does not have such a certificate or if equivalence is not granted by the Ministry, then one can still enroll for a legal degree programme if the conditions stipulated by the academic institution are satisfied. But the diploma will not be legally validated and the holder will under no circumstances be allowed to exercise that profession in Belgium. Such a diploma is called a "scientific" diploma, even though it involves exactly the same study course as does the legal diploma.

In other study programmes, only scientific diplomas are granted. In principle, these degrees have the same "market value" in their areas of application as do the legal degrees of other study programmes. Generally foreign EC transfer students who qualify for admission to a legal degree programme can also register for a scientific degree programme. The individual university can make exceptions, since it determines itself the admission requirements and programme contents for a scientific degree.

For direct admission to the second and subsequent years of a legal degree programme, the holder of a foreign university diploma must petition for a declaration of equivalence from the Ministry of Education. Again, should equivalence be denied, one can apply directly to a university. The university would then, of course, grant a scientific degree upon the

satisfactory completion of the course requirements. The procedure for second and subsequent years of a scientific degree course is the same as the one for first year admission.[1]

In 1972 Belgium decided to limit acceptance of foreign students. The number of foreign students from industrialised and some developing countries in Belgium may not exceed 2% of the number of Belgian students registered the previous year. Only the education of these 2% of foreigners is subsidised by the Belgian government. More foreign students may, in principle, be considered for admission if they pay a supplementary registration fee that is at least 50% of the official cost per student, although this amount varies.
However, some categories of foreign students are admitted without restriction to higher education studies in Belgium and remain outside the 2% quota. Among these we find:

- students of Luxembourg nationality;
- students of foreign nationality, who come from certain developing countries;
- students of foreign nationality who are subjects of a member state of the European Community on the condition that they prove they have been admitted to the same studies in their home country.

The growing number of foreign EC transfer students, caused by the absence of numerus clausus restrictions in Belgium, worries the higher education institutions. The access of these students is not limited by the 2% quota and they cannot be forced to pay full cost fees, if their numbers exceed this 2% and the institution no longer receives a government subsidy for their education. So, financially they are a big problem for the institutions.[2]
In 1991/1992, for instance, 244 Dutch students, who had been turned down in the Netherlands, were enrolled in Flanders for studies in medicine and veterinary medicine. This is a legal loophole in the system, however the extra costs amount to BF 45,650,000.

Foreign EC exchange students

Short-term exchange students from EC member states do not have to meet any official requirements like examinations or tests. In the Flemish community most bilateral exchange programmes concern post-graduate education. The stay of these students in Belgium varies from one month to one year. Belgium has bilateral agreements with 42 countries. These agreements involve about 125 post-graduate grants for one academic year and about 250 months of research grants. In the Walloon area every application for exchange through a bilateral agreement reviewed by the "Commissariat Général en Rélations Internationales". The bilateral agreements with member states of the EC seem to work well.
Foreign EC exchange students studying within the framework of EC programmes are selected by the home institution and do not need an equivalence of their certificate.

[1] The differences between legal and scientific degrees in the Flemish community have now disappeared.

[2] State University of Ghent. Guide for foreign students. Catholic University of Leuven. Guide for foreign students.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Belgium has many bilateral agreements concerning the recognition of education qualifications. With respect to the recognition of higher education entrance qualifications Belgium has agreements with six EC member states.

Germany

- The German "Zeugnis der Reife" gives access to examinations for the first university qualification "candidat/kandidaat" in all fields except civil engineering for which an entrance examination is still compulsory.

France

- The French "Diplôme de bachelier de l'enseignement du second degré" gives access to all candidat/kandidaat examinations except those in civil engineering, veterinary science and agriculture.

Italy

- The "Diploma di maturità classica" gives access to candidat/kandidaat examinations in arts, sciences, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science and agriculture;
- The "Diploma di maturità scientifica" gives access to candidat/kandidaat examinations in law, sciences, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science and agriculture;
- The "Diploma di abilitazione per i provenienti dagli Istituti industriali, nautici, agrari e per geometri" gives access to candidat/kandidaat examinations in sciences and agriculture.

Luxembourg

- The Luxembourg "Certificat de fin d'études secondaires" gives access to candidat/kandidaat examinations in all fields except civil engineering.

The Netherlands

- Dutch secondary leaving certificates give access to the various candidat/kandidaat examinations subject to specific conditions dependent on the content of the secondary school course followed in the Netherlands.

Spain

- Spanish secondary school leaving certificates give access to various candidat/kandidaat examination.

Belgium also recognises the European and the International Baccalaureate and diplomas awarded by the SHAPE International School at Casteau.
Regarding the recognition of higher education courses and intermediate qualifications, the Belgian government has bilateral agreements with Italy and Luxembourg. The agreements with Italy concern courses in chemistry and natural and medical sciences. The agreements with Luxembourg concern the "Diplôme des cours universitaires" and certificates awarded on completion of university courses in Luxembourg.

With respect to recognition of higher education final qualifications Belgium recognises the Italian "laurea" as equivalent to the "licencié/licentiaat". With the Netherlands and Germany discussions on agreements are taking place.

Foreign EC transfer students

If a foreign EC transfer student, wanting to study in Belgium, does not have a recognised certificate, he has to apply for an equivalence to the appropriate Belgian Ministry of Education in Brussels.

On a university level recognition is not problematic. On the level of non-university higher education the situation is different. The programmes in the various countries are very different from each other and there is a lack of information on these courses. This makes comparison and equivalence very difficult. Recognition and equivalence also become more complicated, if a student transfers from one country to another in the middle of his course. The courses in the different countries have different structures and programmes. In these cases all subject courses of the student are evaluated separately and sometimes he has to do some extra work.

According to Ghent University, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands do not generally present problems when it comes to recognition and equivalence. The contacts on these matters with Greece, Portugal and Denmark are very difficult.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students do not need any recognition or equivalence before being admitted to the Belgian higher education system. If they stay for only three months they receive a certificate and if they are in Belgium for a full academic year they can pass the normal Belgian examinations. The recognition of credit points is generally arranged within the EC exchange programmes.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

There are no rules or regulations concerning application and registration on a national level in Belgium. Each institution sets its own rules. A number of representative examples are given below.

Foreign EC transfer students

At the Rijksuniversiteit Gent for example, foreign EC transfer students have to send their application forms before January 1 preceding the academic year in which they want to start their studies, so that a thorough examination of the candidates is possible.

At the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven foreign EC transfer students have to send their applications forms as early as possible. The deadlines are June 15 for applicants of all study programmes of the first and second cycle and for master's programmes, and the first Monday of October for applicants already in Belgium, applicants with the status of political refugee and applicants who obtained their diploma of secondary education in Belgium.

Foreign EC exchange students

Erasmus students, wanting to study at Ghent University, have to complete an English, Dutch or French registration form. Furthermore they have to show:

- an attestation of the ICP-promotor at the home institution mentioning the data of the Erasmus stay, the ICP project code and the name of the promotor in Ghent;
- a proof of registration at the home institution;
- a certificate of insurance.

Erasmus students also need some documents if they want to study at Leuven University:

- proof of registration at the home institution;
- a certificate of the home institution stating the amount of the Erasmus grant;
- health insurance;
- third-party liability insurance.

Apart from this the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven asks students to provide proof of solvency signed by the father, mother or sponsor. The signature on this form must be certified. In some countries this can be done by the local authorities, in others by a Commission for Oath or a Justice of the Peace. For this purpose the university developed a form "Agreement for Acceptance of Financial Responsibility" which is also available in Dutch and French.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

In the Flemish community there are no general official language requirements. The official language is Dutch, but in practice a lot of courses are given in French or English. Leuven University for example, offers no less than thirty international programmes in English. Most universities have language centres offering courses in Dutch. The non-university establishments do not usually have such facilities.

In the Walloon provinces the situation is much the same. There are no official language requirements. The official language is French. However, a lot of courses are given in English. At the moment this is still against the official law. In the near future a new decree will change this situation. The Walloon higher education institutions offer foreign students many possibilities to learn French. Naturally the bigger institutions have the best facilities.

Although official language requirements do not exist on a national or community level, foreign EC students do have to meet certain standards set by the individual institutions themselves. A foreign EC transfer student who wants to be admitted to a Dutch language study programme at Ghent University must confirm that he/she has a satisfactory knowledge of that language by proving that his/her studies or a major part of them were in Dutch, or by producing a certificate showing that he successfully followed a Dutch language course. A foreign EC transfer student wanting to follow an English language study programme at the same university must give evidence of a good knowledge of English by producing a certificate which affirms that the language vehicle of the achieved studies or a major part of it was English, or have taken the TOEFL-TEST with a score of 550-600, or submit a certificate of the Language Centre of the university. At other higher education institutions these regulations are more or less the same.

Some establishments have special language courses for Erasmus students.

5. TUITION FEES

Universities

The tuition fees in Belgium are determined by the higher education institutions themselves. The amount depends on the subject and the level of the course.

Foreign non EC transfer students, exceeding the 2% quota of the number of Belgian students registered for the preceding academic year, have to pay supplementary tuition fees. For the academic year 1990/91 these fees range from about BF 100,000 up to BF 250,000.

Up to 1988 transfer students coming from EC member states also had to pay these full cost tuition fees. But in 1988 the European Court of Justice decided this was contrary to Belgian and European law. The legal proceedings against Belgium were instituted by the French student Françoise Gravier. As a result of this verdict foreign EC transfer students now pay the same tuition fees as the Belgian students. These home fees amount to about BF 15 000 for one academic year, depending on the institution, the subject and the level of the course:

- Ghent University BF 15,650
- Leuven University BF 14,800
- Free University Brussels BF 11,500

Non-university establishments

The tuition fees at non-university establishments of higher education are lower than the university fees. National students and students coming from EC member states pay approximately BF 10,000 for long study courses and BF 250 for short study courses. Foreign non-EC students must pay additional fees, the amount of which varies according to subject.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National grants

Belgium has a national grant system. The height of the grant depends on the parental income and the cadastral income on their estates. To be eligible for a grant the parental net taxable income may not exceed BF 700 699. In practice not many national students receive a grant. The maximum amounts are:

- BF 82,500 for students living away from home;
- BF 60,300 for students living at home within the university area;
- BF 55,000 for students living at home outside the university area.

From 1990/91 onwards the Flemish community supplements the amount of money from Brussels for the Belgian Erasmus grants. In 1990/91 BF 12,000,000 was spent on Erasmus grants allowing an extra 30% of Belgian students to go abroad.

Finally, there are a number of students who are not eligible for a national grant, but get a reduction on the tuition fees based on their income.

Foreign EC students

Belgium awards a limited number of scholarships to foreign EC students. They are awarded by the two cultural communities, within the framework of international cultural cooperation or by individual Belgian higher education institutions, foundations and private individuals. Information on these scholarships is available at the "Service culturel/Culturele dienst" at Belgian embassies, the "Commissariat général aux relations internationales/Commissariaat-generaal voor de internationale culturele samenwerking" or the higher education institutions themselves.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

A foreign EC student staying in Belgium for less than three months has to register at the City Hall. The documents required are identification papers and three passport photographs. He will then be given a "declaration of arrival".

If a foreign EC student plans to stay in Belgium for a period longer than three months, he must register at the City hall within eight days of his arrival. The documents needed are:

- identity papers or passport;
- certificate of means of support: this can be obtained at the Belgian Consulate or Embassy in the home country; the signature on the document must be certified;
- three passport photographs;
- permission to register at the university or proof of registration.

After having reported to the Aliens' Registration Office the student will receive a residence permit, the type of which will depend on the length of his stay in Belgium. For a stay of less than a year: a certificate of matriculation. For a stay of between 1 and 2 years: first a certificate of matriculation and then after three months a certificate of registration in the aliens' register. For a stay of longer than 2 years: a residence permit of an EC citizen.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

A health insurance policy is compulsory for every student residing in Belgium. Foreign EC students can, upon presentation of the necessary documents (an E 111 form), maintain their national health insurance in Belgium without a waiting period and supplementary fees. Because these health insurance agreements vary, it is necessary to inquire at the health insurance service in the home country before leaving for Belgium.

Foreign EC students are sometimes asked to subscribe to a third-party liability insurance policy. They have to pay BF 600 for this insurance. Students already covered by such an insurance do not have to pay. As proof of their subscription they must show a declaration from their insurance company.

9. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Belgium varies. According to the Flemish Ministry of Education a foreign EC student needs about BF 180,000 a year outside Brussels and BF 216,000 a year, if he lives in the capital. The University of Leuven estimates the cost of living at BF 198,400 a year plus BF 25,600 for extra costs during the first year (clothing, kitchen utensils, bedding etc.). Finally Ghent University recommends foreign EC students an amount of BF 225,000 a year.

10. ACCOMMODATION

In Belgium, responsibility for university students' social affairs rests with the universities. Students at non-university higher education institutions have to manage on their own, assisted by their institution.
Belgian universities offer a number of student houses, the so-called "homes", to foreign and national students. The universities of Leuven, Ghent and Antwerp even give special priority to foreigners. The rent of these homes amounts to about BF 4,500 a month. Foreign EC students we spoke to in Ghent paid BF 4,400 a month and in Leuven they paid BF 4,200. However, university accommodation is not available to all national and foreign students. Especially in Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels housing is a major problem. A lot of national and foreign students therefore have to rent a room on the private market. The monthly rent for a private room varies between BF 5,000 and BF 7,000.
Belgian non-university higher education institutions do not have any accommodation facilities for their national and foreign students. The students therefore have to find a room on the private market.

11. SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC GUIDANCE

There are no official rules and regulations concerning the social and academic guidance of foreign students. Every higher education institution has developed its own procedures. Naturally these procedures are most extensive at the bigger establishments, that receive the most foreigners.
Before coming to Belgium, the foreign student can write for information on study possibilities to the "Service d'Information/Dienst voor Studieadvies" at the individual institutions. In the Flemish community the Erasmus Student Network plays an important role in the social and academic guidance of foreign EC students studying in Belgium.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Higher education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The student handbook (1990:6).
- Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions (NARIC).
- E. Berning, Accommodation of Erasmus students in the Member States of the European Community (München 1991).
- OECD seminar on higher education and the flow of foreign students. Country report: Belgium (Flemish Community) (Hannover 1990).
- "Buitenlandse studenten kunnen extra-inschrijfgeld terugvragen. Europese Hof stelt België weer in het ongelijk" in: Het Laatste Nieuws, 03-02-1988.
- Beschikking Europese Hof van Justitie (non-discriminatie - toegang tot het door de universiteiten verstrekte onderwijs voor beroepsopleiding), 25-10-1985.
- Rapport concernant le logement des étudiants Erasmus (Agence Nationale Francophone Erasmus 1990).
- K.U. Leuven: International study programmes.
- K.U. Leuven: Guide for foreign students.
- K.U. Leuven: Situation map.
- K.U. Leuven: Een leven voor mens en wetenschap.
- K.U. Leuven: Erasmus, projecten en programma's.
- K.U. Leuven: Kleine handleiding voor Erasmus-studenten.
- K.U. Leuven: Formaliteiten te vervullen voor een studieverblijf in een andere EG lidstaat.
- K.U. Leuven: Special information for Erasmus students.
- K.U. Leuven: To the K.U.Leuven's foreign Erasmus students.
- K. U. Leuven: Living in Leuven.
- K.U. Leuven: Gids voor buitenlandse studenten.
- R.U. Gent: Toegankelijkheid van het Hoger Onderwijs in de Europese Gemeenschap. Nota's ten behoeve van Research voor Beleid, Leiden. Implementatie van Erasmus aan de R.U. Gent (Dienst Europese Onderwijsprojecten 1991).
- R.U. Gent: Guide for foreign students.
- R.U. Gent: Studiegids 1990.
- V.U. Brussel: Uw studies aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Algemene informatie, 1991-1992.
- Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur: Services et activités extra-académiques.
- Institut Supérieur Economique de Secrétariat: et pourquoi pas...secrétaire de haut niveau?

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Belgium

April 10: Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Gent
- Mrs. Lieve van den Bossche-Bracke; department of European Education Projects
- Mr. Gert Buelens; department of European Education Projects
- foreign students from Italy, Portugal and Germany

April 11: Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap / Vlaams Erasmuscomité, Brussels
- Mr. Everaert; Erasmus Advisory Committee
- Mrs. De Cock

April 11: Ministère de l'éducation nationale / Agence Francophone Erasmus, Brussels
- Mr. Y. van Haverbeke

April 12: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven
- Mr. van Ermen; International Centre
- Mrs. Grunderbeek; Erasmus
- foreign students from Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands

DENMARK

R.M. Mertens

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

National students

In Denmark the qualifying examinations for higher education are the Higher Secondary School-leaving Certificate, the Higher Preparatory Examination, the Higher Commercial Examination and the Higher Technical Examination[1]. Approximately 80 to 90 % of the students are admitted on the basis of one of these examinations.

Institutions have the autonomy, however, to admit students who do not meet these requirements. Alternative qualifications may be 9-10 years of school-attendance, work experience, travel experience and/or an admission test.

There are numerus clausus regulations for almost all courses at university as well at non-university level. The number of places available is annually set by the Minister of Education and is based on labour market estimates and on the capacity of the institutions. (Act of June 1976).

Since 1991, the admission regulation for courses with a numerus clausus consists of a so-called "Two Quota System" ("Optagelse gennem Kvote 1, Kvote 2") which means there are two admission groups with each different admission criteria and a different selection method.

Quota 1: Admission group 1

Candidates who satisfy the Danish entry requirements with a high average mark are selected through admission group 1. Selection is made upon the average mark of the qualifying examination.

Quota 2: Admission group 2

Places in group 2 are distributed to applicants:

- who satisfy the Danish entry requirements, but with an insufficient, below average mark.
- who do not satisfy the entry requirements, but who are qualified by other means as for example work experience.
- who have a foreign secondary school qualification, equivalent to one of the Danish entry qualifications.

Selection criteria for Danish applicants in this group are work experience, travel experience and courses followed at a "folkehøjskole"[2]. Applicants receive points for each of these criteria. In a second stage, institutions select on criteria such as motivation, to be indicated by the students on the application form.

Applicants with foreign qualifications are selected only upon their marks.

The task of a special body ("Fællesnævnet") consisting of representatives from all institutions is to compare the marks of different countries and to make conversion tables. The Danish mark system works on a 13-point scale.

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[1] The Danish names: Studentereksamen, højere forberedelseseksamen, højere handelseksamen, højere teknisk eksamen.

[2] School for general cultural courses.

The number of places available to applicants in admission group 1 and 2 differs considerably from subject to subject and is annually set by the Minister of Education.
A general average for all subjects is 70% for group 1 and 30% for group 2.
For some fields of study (for example natural sciences and mathematics), secondary school marks are regarded as a very important admission criterion. For other subjects (for example journalism and physiotherapy), professional experience is considered more important than marks.
For the academic year 1990-91, the percentages of students admitted through quota 2 were as follows:

Quota 2: 1990-1991[1]

Agronom	30%
Akademiingeniør	
- DIA	20%
- Aalborg	15%
Arkitekt	50%
Bibliotekar	20%
Børnehaavepædagog/Fritidspædagog	80%
Civilingeniør	
- DTH	20%
- AUC	15%
Dyrlæge	30%
Ergoterapeut	25%
Erhvers	
- Økonomiske uddanelser (average)	24%
Ernærings	
- og husholdnings-Økonom	50%
Farmaceut	25%
Folkeskolelærer	75%
Forstkandidat	30%
Fysioterapeut	80%
Hortonom	30%
Humanistiske universitetsuddannelser	
- København	30%
- Aarhus	30%
- Odense	20%
- Roskilde	25%
- Aalborg	30%
- Storstrøms	10%
Idræt	25%
Jordemoder	70%
Journalist	100%
Jurist	30%
Kiropraktor	10%
Korrespondent (average)	26%
Landinspektør	20%
Levnedsmiddelkandidat	30%
Læge	50%
Mejeriingeniør	30%
Naturvidenskabelige universitetsuddanelser	
- København	25%
- Aarhus	10%
- Odense	10%
- Roskilde	20%
- Aalborg	15%
Psykologi	30%
Samfunds-videnskabelige universitetsuddanelser	30%

[1]Source: Studie og Erhvervs valget. Kvote 2. RUE 1990-91. Radet for Uddannelses- og Erhvervsvejledning. ISBN 87-7773-011-9.

Socialpædagog	80%
Socialrådgiver	80%
Tandlæge	50%
Tegnsprogstolk for døve	70%
Teologi	30%
Økonomiske universitetuddannelser	
- København	25%
- Aarhus	20%
- Odense	10%
- Aalborg	25%

Selection criteria in admission group 2 are determined by the institutions themselves.

Foreign EC students

There is an upper limit of 10% of non-Danish citizens to be admitted to higher education. This limit, however, does not apply to EC citizens and refugees.
In practice, the number of foreign students never reaches this percentage.[1]

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign EC students with Danish secondary school qualifications are treated in the same way as Danish nationals. They can apply through admission groups 1 and 2.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students with foreign secondary school qualifications are admitted only through admission group 2. Their secondary school leaving-certificate must be recognised as equivalent to the Danish. If an additional entry examination or preparatory examination is required in their country of origin, candidates must have passed this examination (this applies for example to applicants from Greece and Spain).

Before 1991 there were special additional admission rules for foreign transfer students to enter the course of medicine. Candidates should have a special tie with Denmark. This additional requirement has since been abolished.
Danish citizens with foreign secondary school qualifications are also admitted only through admission group 2.

Foreign EC exchange students

The admission of foreign EC exchange students is less complicated and restrictions do not apply to them. While the admission of foreign EC transfer students is regulated by the Ministry of Education, admission of foreign EC exchange students is at the discretion of the institutions.
Admission rules are:

- currently being enrolled at an institution of higher education in the country of origin;
- being an advanced undergraduate student. The level should be at least equivalent to the first two or three years of Danish higher education;
- having a knowledge of Danish and a good knowledge of English. Students do not have

[1] In 190/91, Aarhus university had 4000 applicants in admission group 2, of whom 150 foreign citizens and 50 Danish citizens with foreign qualifications.

to pass language tests; they must indicate their level of both languages on the application form, and, if available, enclose certificates of language courses attended.

In the case of formal exchange programmes within the European Community (Erasmus) or within the Nordic Countries (Nordplus), admission is automatic and based on mutual trust.
Free floaters have to contact the faculty department concerned. They will be accepted if their study-project has been considered feasible.

Foreign EC exchange students are registered as guest students and can participate in examinations. However, they are not entitled to take any complete part of a university degree.
The maximum period of exchange is one year. Extension is rare, but in exceptional cases, the exchange period can be extended to two years. It is also important to know that the status of guest student can never be converted into a status of a full degree student. A guest student who wants to become a regular student, has to apply through the normal admission procedures for access to Danish higher education.

Especially within the last 3-5 years, Denmark has been intensifying work on internationalisation and student mobility. The number of students going abroad and the number of students coming to Denmark is still growing rapidly.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Foreign EC transfer students

Denmark has agreements about recognition of secondary school leaving-certificates with Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. Besides that, the International Baccalaureate and the European Baccalaureate are recognised as well.
Other certificates or special entry examinations from the member states of the Council of Europe which qualify for university entrance in the country concerned are also accepted.[1]

For particular degree courses, however, foreign EC transfer students may be required to pass supplementary tests. For medicine, a supplementary test in physics and chemistry; for sciences, a test in mathematics, physics and chemistry; for theology, a test in Latin and Greek; for law, a test in Danish. These tests can be done before or early on in the course.

There is no automatic equivalence of foreign university degrees, diplomas and certificates. According to some international conventions, however, university graduates of the convention countries can apply for recognition. There are two main aspects of recognition; academic recognition and professional recognition.
Full academic recognition of a foreign university degree is rare. In order to obtain a Danish academic degree, foreign EC graduates will have to do some further studies and examinations at a Danish university.

[1] In some countries, different secondary school qualifications are required for university studies and for non-university studies. It is not 100% clear if foreign school qualifications for non-university courses are accepted for access to non-university courses in Denmark.

In the case of professional recognition for the purpose of job application or membership of graduate associations, the university can issue a statement recognising the level of the foreign academic qualification in relation to similar Danish degrees.

Foreign EC exchange students

Credit transfer in the case of foreign EC exchange students differs from case to case, depending on the purpose of exchange. Some students write a thesis without attending lectures, others attend courses of a full academic year and take examinations.
The Danish university will in any case issue a certificate of the courses attended and examinations passed by the foreign student.
For foreign exchange students within the formal programmes such as Erasmus and Nordplus, agreements on credit transfer are made in advance, at the home institution. Especially when an agreement already exists between the two institutions, recognition of the period of study abroad will cause less problems.
For free floaters it is rather more difficult to obtain a full credit. It depends on individual agreements between the student and his or her professors at the home institution.
In the case of a Belgian free floater (student who was interviewed) recognition would be based on the equivalence of the "study-workload" of his programme to be followed in Denmark, to that of Belgium. But in addition to this he will still have to pass a few examinations in Belgium which are compulsory and which do not exist in Denmark.
Besides a Dutch student who was writing his thesis during his stay in Denmark, none of the foreign EC students who were interviewed were certain whether their studies in Denmark would be fully recognised.
On the other hand, none of them considered this to be a big problem.

Main problems to be considered with respect to credit transfer are:
- programmes of different countries do not always correspond.
  (compulsory examinations have to be done on return.)
- exact information about the programme to follow at the guest institution is not always available beforehand and is not always clear.
  (students sometimes have to change their study-programme while staying abroad).
- in many cases, recognition still depends on individual agreements between the student and his/her professors.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

National students

Students with Danish secondary school qualifications have a range of eight choices of study programmes and institutions; the student has to give priority to the choices made. Places are distributed according to the places available, geographic situation and priority of the student's choice.
As a result of the "two-quota" system, applicants with Danish qualifications have to choose whether they want to be selected through admission group 1 or 2, or through both.

The deadline for admission through admission group 1 is July 15. Because of the labour-intensive way of selection in group 2, the deadline of admission in this group is March 15.

Foreign EC transfer students

As candidates with foreign qualifications can be selected only through group 2, they have to send in their application form before March 15. Foreign students from outside the EC and from outside the Nordic countries, have to apply for a residence permit before they apply for admission. They can apply for admission through the Danish consulate in their country. Foreign students from EC countries and from the Nordic countries can apply directly to the institution of their choice. Students with foreign qualifications must give documentation about their curriculum vitae, diplomas, etc.

The academic year is divided into two terms; from September to December and from February to June. Foreign EC transfer students will only be admitted from the first of September.
Application forms are available in Danish and English.

Foreign EC exchange students

The admissions procedure for foreign exchange students in formal programmes, such as Erasmus and Nordplus, is easier. In most cases, the procedure is handled by the coordinator at the home institution.
Free floaters have to apply at the institution of their choice (or through the Danish consulate in their country as far as it concerns non-EC and non-Nordic students) with full documentation of their studies and proposed study in Denmark. Concerning the residence permit, the same rules as for foreign transfer students apply to free floaters outside the EC or Nordic countries.
Foreign exchange students can be admitted both for the autumn term in September and for the spring term in February. The closing date for admission in autumn is May 15 and for spring November 15.
Application forms are available in English. Free floaters may apply in one of the modern European languages.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign EC transfer students

The higher education institutions can set their own language requirements.
As almost all lectures are given in Danish, it is obvious that foreign EC transfer students should have a good command of Danish. Except for students from the (non-EC) Nordic countries who have had Danish in their secondary school examination, all foreign students must pass the language test "Danish Test II - Lower certificate.[1] This national test can be taken at national language centres.
Additionally, foreign EC students are expected to have a good command of English.

[1]Danish level II corresponds to a three month intensive course.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students are expected to have a knowledge of Danish, as most of the education is in Danish. However, a language test is not required.

Language courses are offered by the University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University and the Roskilde University centre. There are two month intensive courses in summer and three week intensive courses just before the start of the terms. For foreign exchange students within the formal programmes Erasmus and Nordplus[1], these courses are free of charge. For other foreign students, a three week course costs DKK 2,250.

Some optional courses and some special exchange courses are given in modern EC languages, mostly English. As by law, compulsory courses have to be taught in Danish.

In some cases, foreign EC exchange students can ask permission to take an examination in one of the major languages.

5. TUITION FEES

In Denmark there are no tuition fees for courses of higher education.

A deposit of DKK 500 has to be paid on enrolment. This amount will be refunded on completion of the course. There is no difference between Danish and foreign (EC and Non-EC) students.

The deposit does not apply to foreign EC exchange students. They only pay a small amount of DKK 50 to obtain their "guest student" card. This card entitles them to use student facilities.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

State educational support exists in the form of grants, direct state loans and state-guaranteed loans from banks. Up to the age of 18, receiving a grant depends on the income of the student's parents. After 18 years, every national student is awarded a grant of DKK 3,000/month, depending on the personal income of the individual student.

As the estimated average cost of living for a student (not living with his parents) is about DKK 5,000/month, students are able to take a loan.[2]

Danish students who participate in an exchange programme receive the Erasmus grant as a supplement to their national grant.

From 1987 on, Denmark has a special action scheme for international education. Free movers can, under certain circumstances, get a grant from this scheme as a supplement to their national grant. This pool is also very often used to supplement the Erasmus grant.

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[1] Nordplus is an interuniversity excange programme between the Nordic countries Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Denmark.

[2] There are no official budgets of the cost of living of students. The source of the aforementioned information is the international office at Aarhus University.

Foreign EC students

The national grant system does generally not apply to foreign students.[1]
With a number of countries, however, Denmark has certain cultural agreements. Within these agreements, students from the countries concerned obtain a full grant in Denmark and vice versa. The number of students, however, is very small, (about 5% of all the foreign students), and it mostly concerns post-graduate students.

Some private foundations in Denmark award scholarships to foreign students. Information on these scholarships is to be found in the Legathandbogen and the Legater, Studielan, Kollegie-Handbog. However, most of these scholarships are reserved for specific categories of recipients.
In addition, there are a limited number of Danish government scholarships which are specially intended for students who wish to spend a short period of time studying in Denmark.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Foreign students from countries outside the EC and the Nordic countries must apply for a residence permit before they enter Denmark, at the Danish consulate in their own country.

Foreign EC students can stay in Denmark for three months without a permit. After three months, they have to apply for a residence permit at the local foreign police office. The authorities require proof of sufficient means of support. This can be a cash deposit in a Danish bank or a letter of financial guarantee certified by the local authorities in the country of origin. Sufficient means of support is defined as the current Danish cost of living.
Practice shows differences in handling the procedures of issuing the residence permit. Some local authorities accepted a paper of being an Erasmus student as a proof of sufficient means of living, while others wanted to check everything through their central office in Copenhagen.

All foreign EC students who intend to stay longer than three months, have to register within five days of arrival, at the resident-register office of their place of residence. Upon registration, they are issued with a "CPR"-number (Central Personal Registration), as all citizens of Denmark have[2].

[1]Except for some special groups of children of EC nationals who have been employed in Denmark in accordance with EC rules and except for foreign students who have been resident in Denmark for a continuous period of 24 months or 12 months in case of foreign nationals married to a Danish national.

[2]The "CPR number" is a personal registration number, which is given to all citizens of Denmark, at the moment of official registration as a resident of a municipality. The CPR number is also the public health insurance number, i.e. everybody with a CPR-number is automatically covered by the public health insurance system.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Students in Denmark are insured by the national public health insurance system in the same way as all Danish citizens. The system provides full coverage of visits to doctors (general practitioners) and hospitalisation, and partial coverage of medicine and visits to dentists.
Foreign EC students are covered in the same way as Danish nationals.
The public health insurance office will issue an insurance card to foreign EC students, upon showing their CPR-number (see 1.9).
If the student can also show the E 111 form, he/she is covered from the first day of his stay. Without the E 111 form, there is a waiting period of 6 weeks, after which the student will be insured as a Danish national.

9. COST OF LIVING

The estimated average cost of living is DKK 5,000/month, of which DKK 1,600 is needed for housing.[1]
Students in Denmark receive reduced tariffs in museums, on trains and boats, but not on local transport. There are not very many student restaurants. Most Danish students prepare their own meals at home.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Both Danish and foreign students have to arrange their own accommodation. The institutions do not have their own student halls of residence, nor do they intervene on the housing market. There are, however, a few student dormitories, administered by the student organisations. They cover accommodation for 25% of the student population. A room at a student dormitory costs roughly DKK 1,400/month and has to be rented for a full academic year. Both Danish and foreign students are eligible on equal terms for these rooms.
Most of the students rent a private room (in a house with other students) in the city, which can cost in the region of DKK 1,800/month. There are also possibilities to rent a room with a Danish family.

One exception is made for Erasmus students. The international offices of the universities help students find accommodation. For all the Erasmus students interviewed, a room was available upon arrival. Erasmus students have to indicate beforehand on a special form whether they want to have a room in a dormitory or a private room.

[1]There are no official budgets of the cost of living of students. The source of the aforementioned information is the international office at Aarhus University.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

There are certain rules concerning the social guidance of students. Higher education institutions are expected to provide counselling and guidance and the Ministry of Education has paid considerable amounts to the institutions to set up counselling services. There are no rules on academic guidance, but it still forms part of the work of academic staff member, especially guidance in connection with the writing of theses.
Foreign EC transfer students are treated in the same way as Danish students. Details concerning the academic programme have to be discussed with the teachers concerned. Exchange students cannot expect to be provided with individual tutoring. There is one local coordinator for both Danish students going abroad and foreign students coming to Denmark.
The international office of the university looks after some aspects of social guidance of Erasmus students. This means, that they provide accommodation upon arrival and they make an appointment with the foreign police office to register. This does not apply to free floaters.

There are different student associations, among them some sections of international student organisations. Students in Denmark have their own political organisations and are represented in all administrative bodies of higher education. There is an ESN network in Copenhagen.

Foreign Students who want general information on studying in Denmark should contact the Central Student Advisory Service at the University of Copenhagen.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Higher Education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The Student Handbook. 6th edition. 1990.
- Education in Denmark. The Education System. Danish Ministry of Education and Research, July 1989.
- The effects and evaluation of programmes and policies for foreign students and study abroad - Denmark. Paper for the OECD seminar on Higher Education and the flow of foreign students. Hannover, April 1990.
- Comparative study of qualifications on completion of compulsory education, secondary education and vocational training in Denmark. Carsten Bronde, Aarhus Technical College, September 1989.
- Efforts made to promote student mobility in Denmark. Ministry of Education and Research. Department of Higher Education. September 1990.
- The University of Copenhagen. Guest Students. 1989.
- The University of Copenhagen. Special admissions' office. 1990.
- Rules of admission for foreign students. Aarhus University. November 1990. Fifth revised edition.
- Studie og Erhvervs valget. Kvote 2. RUE 1990-91. Radet for Uddannelses- og Erhvervs-vejledning. ISBN 87-7773-011-9.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Denmark

April 18: Ministry of Education and Research, Department of higher education, NGAA; Copenhagen.
- Ms Marianne la Cour-Sonne, head of section (50%), administration of Erasmus.
- Ms Ilse Petersen, head of section (50%), administration of Erasmus

April 19: University of Copenhagen.
- Ms Robin Jensen, Head of the International Division
- Students from Belgium, Spain and Poland

April 22: University of Aarhus
- Mr Poul Bonde, Head of the international office
- Mr Viggo Munk, student counsellor
- Students from Belgium, Spain, United Kingdom and the Netherlands

GERMANY

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS[1]

National students

A German student who wants access to the higher educational system in his country needs a secondary school diploma. For university entry an "Abitur" is required and for access to a Fachhochschule the student has to have a "Fachhochschulreife". To ascertain the talent of a student, subjects like art, music and sports require a special examination.

There are alternative accesses to certain higher education institutions which require other certificates. But to get access to higher education via such alternative ways ("Zweiter Bildungsweg") is very difficult.

Germany has an extensive system of numerus clausus regulations. These regulations are in force partly on a national level (e.g. medicine, veterinary, dentistry) and partly on the level of the Länder (e.g. in Nordrhein Westfalen visual communication and graphic design) and partly on an institutional level. The number of places available in numerus clausus subjects is determined by the Bundesministerium and the Landesministeriums.[2]

Students, who want to study medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry at a West German higher education institution, have to pass an entry examination, called the "Test für medizinische Studiengänge". In order to study a numerus clausus subject students have to submit their applications to the "Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätzen" in Dortmund. The selection of the applications is done by the ZVS. The criteria upon which this selection is based are: waiting time, secondary school marks, examinations and social factors (handicaps).

A lot of German students try to avoid the numerus clausus regulations, for example in medicine, by studying abroad (Belgium, Italy and also Hungary and Romania). While these students are enrolled at foreign institutions of higher education, they can still participate in the numerus clausus selection of the ZVS. This would not be the case if they had decided to study a different subject at a German institution. So after some years a lot of these students do get a place at a German institution and return to their home country to finish their studies.

The situation concerning higher education in former East Germany is not yet completely equal to that in the West. There are a number of transitory regulations. For admission to studies at institutions of higher education in the new federal Länder students need an "Abitur". Numerus clausus studies in these Länder are biology, medicine, pharmacy, psychology, veterinary medicine and dentistry. Formerly people who had served in the East German army would automatically get access to higher education. This system was called the "Vorabzulassung" and has already been abolished.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications and foreign EC transfer students

In the German higher education system foreign students account for 5.9% of the total enrolment. Of the 90.000 foreign students, about 20,000 come from EC member states.

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[1]The basis of this research concerns information on the situation in former West-Germany. Data on former East-Germany are incorporated where possible.

[2]ZVS Info, Wintersemester 1991/92 (Dortmund), 2-3.

About 35% of the foreign student population consists of so-called "Bildungsinländer", foreign students who have a German secondary school-leaving certificate.
Within the German numerus clausus a percentage of places has always been reserved for foreign students. This percentage was 6% for all foreigners, of which 4% specially for the "Bildungsinländer". However, because European law forbids the discrimination of European Community students, this system will change in the winter term of 1991/92. From that moment onwards foreign EC transfer students will be taken out of this 6% quota and be treated as German students. In practice the position of foreign EC transfer students might worsen instead of improve, because they have had a foreign secondary school education that has not been designed to meet the requirements of the German higher educational system. They will have to pass the same tests as the German students and it will be hard for them to compete with national students. This development will also lead to an increase of the total number of foreign students in Germany, because the 6% quota will remain and will contain only foreign non-EC transfer students and "Bildunginländer".
For subjects without a numerus clausus there is no maximum percentage of foreign students, but in practice their number never exceeds 12 to 15% of the total student population.

Foreign EC exchange students
The admission of foreign EC exchange students does not lead to any problems. The numerus clausus regulations do not apply to them. In practice exchange students are admitted after being selected by their home institution. Officially the students need a school leaving-certificate equal to the German Abitur and proof of enrolment at their home institution. They do not have to pass any entry examinations and are not interviewed. Most foreign EC exchange students participate in the Erasmus programme, although there are other programmes, for example the bilateral project "Deutsch-französisch Hochschulkolleg" that started in 1987. The "Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst" (DAAD) also has some programmes for foreign students who want to study in Germany for a limited period of time.[1]

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Apart from the multilateral conventions of the European Community, the Council of Europe and Unesco, Germany has two bilateral agreements on higher education entrance qualifications, with France and Luxembourg. Germany recognises the European Baccalaureate, but some restrictions are imposed on recognition of the International Baccalaureate. Concerning the recognition of higher education courses and intermediate qualifications, Germany has concluded bilateral conventions with France, Italy and the Netherlands.

Foreign EC transfer students
Foreign EC transfer students who want to study in Germany require a school leaving-certificate equivalent to the German Abitur. Decisions on the equivalence of foreign

[1] See the brochure of the DAAD Rôle, objectifs, programmes (1990).

certificates are taken by the institution concerned. If the foreign certificate is not considered equivalent to the German, the foreign EC student has to pass a test, the so-called "Feststellungsprüfung". Before passing this examination the student usually follows a preparatory course of two semesters at a "Studienkolleg". The "Feststellungsprüfung" can be done only twice.
Foreign EC students sometimes have problems with recognition when they want to study in Germany. It is very difficult to compare the different systems: for example at German universities there is no intermediate degree after three years of study that compares to the British BA degree.

Foreign EC exchange students
Foreign EC exchange students (Erasmus), who want to study in Germany for a short period, do not have to worry about recognition of their qualifications. They are accepted after being selected by their home institution and they do not need any equivalence. For them the major problem is the recognition of credit points and periods of study. According to the German DAAD there are still some problems to be solved in this area. Although they admit that the Erasmus programme offers the student more guarantees than other programmes of individual mobility, they state that also within Erasmus programmes credit points are often not guaranteed. Furthermore, the different national systems and study programmes do not connect very well.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Foreign EC transfer students
Foreign EC transfer students wanting to study in Germany have to fill in an application form, regardless of whether they are first year students or are continuing their studies in Germany. This form is called "Antrag auf Zulassung zum Studium / auf Immatrikulation" and is written in German. It contains questions about the course the student wants to follow, personal data and the educational history of the student. The foreign student has to enclose official copies of his examination results, certificates etc. If these documents are not in German, English or French, he has to add an official translation in German. The form has to be sent directly to the institution. The closing date for applications for the winter term is July 15, and for the summer term January 15. So the time span involved is about three months, which is much shorter than in other European countries.

Foreign EC transfer students wishing to apply for admission to studies in the new federal Länder must in principle apply directly to the relevant institution. Since the closing dates for applications differ at the individual institutions and in general a period of several months is required before studies actually begin, the students are strongly advised to request the application and registration forms as early as possible.

Foreign EC exchange students
For foreign EC exchange students (Erasmus) the procedure is again much easier. Application and registration is done by the respective coordinators or professors concerned. The student himself at the most has to fill in a form with some personal data etc. These

forms are mostly in German. But the University of Cologne for example has explanatory sheets in English and Spanish.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign EC transfer students

All foreign EC transfer students who want to study at a German institution for higher education have to pass a language examination called the "Prüfung zum Nachweis deutscher Sprachkenntnisse" (PNdS). Bildungsinländer and German native-speakers (Swiss, Austrian) are of course exempted. The examination is held at the institutions themselves. Until now the examination dates differed per institution. Because of this, failing students have the opportunity to try again at another institution. To avoid this possibility there will in future be only one national examination date.

All courses are given in German. There are a lot of possibilities for foreign students to learn German in Germany or in their home country. At home they can go to the German embassies, the Goethe institutes or the offices of the DAAD. In Germany they can learn German at the Akademische Auslandsämter of the higher education institutions, the Zentrale of the Goethe institute and several regional Goethe institutes, the Carl Duisberg centres and many others.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students who speak some German in practice do not have to pass the language test. In many cases Erasmus students can follow free language courses at the German institutions.

5. TUITION FEES

Both national and foreign students studying at German institutions for higher education do not have to pay tuition fees. Moderate costs must be met by students for the semester fee. This fee is called "Sozialgebühren" and amounts to 16 - 50 DM per semester. The amount of the fee is determined by the "Deutsche Studentenwerk" under the law of the "Länder" and the money is used as a contribution to the costs for the use of the service facilities at the institutions (restaurant, sports facilities etc.).

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

The national grant system of Germany is called the "Bundesgesetz über individuelle Förderung der Ausbildung", in short "Bafög". About thirty percent of all German students are eligible for a Bafög grant. The amount of grant awarded depends on the parental income and the family status of the student and is about 780 DM a month at the most. Fifty percent of the total amount of money is a loan and has to be paid back by the student.

If a German student spends a study period abroad the grant will be prolonged for up to one year. The monthly amount the student receives will also be raised. The height of this supplement depends on the destination of the student. For example the monthly supplement for Spain is 120 DM and for Denmark 230 DM. In some cases there are even differences within one country: London 140 DM and the rest of the UK 100 DM.[1]
Furthermore German students can apply for scholarships to study abroad at different institutions, like the DAAD, the "Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft" (for Fachhochschule students) and another eight private foundations.

Foreign EC students
As a rule German higher education institutions do not grant scholarships to foreign EC students. However, certain organisations do provide scholarships to foreigners. These scholarships are granted for the most part on the basis of academic achievement. The applicant's social situation plays a subordinate role. Information on the possibility of receiving a scholarship form the DAAD may be obtained from the German diplomatic or consular missions, as well as from other German agencies abroad like the Goethe institutes and branch offices of the DAAD.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

The entry and residence regulations are relatively easy when it concerns foreign EC students. For study purposes a residence permit is needed. This residence permit can be obtained from a German diplomatic mission abroad or from the local aliens' authority in Germany. To apply for a permit, students need a valid passport, a letter of admission from a German higher education institution and proof of sufficient financial means. In practice foreign EC short-term exchange students probably do not have to show any financial proof.
When the students arrive in Germany they must report their presence at the aliens authority responsible for their place of residence.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Any student, national or foreign, wishing to enrol at a higher education institution in Germany must have a health insurance. Germany has bilateral agreements with all EC member states, so that nationals of those countries do not have to pay any insurance costs if they are insured at home (with an E 111 form). However, in Germany these regulations do not apply to students who are over 30 years. Students who are not insured in their home country have to get a German "Krankenversicherung", which costs on average about 394 DM per semester.
Health insurance causes two major problems in Germany. First, in theory insurance is compulsory, but the students generally are not required to show it. So in practice a lot of these students do not have the insurance, which causes great financial problems in case of

[1] Balög 1990/91: Was sich ändert und welche Möglichkeiten es gibt (Bonn 1990).

illness or accidents. Secondly, health insurance is a problem for older students because they have to pay private rates.

9. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Germany is calculated by the DAAD at 900 DM per month for a first cycle student up to 1150 DM for a student in the doctoral phase. The "Deutsches Studentenwerk", the German student welfare agency, estimates the cost of living at 974 DM per month. In this amount 312 DM is reserved for food, 250 DM for rent, and 50 DM for gas, water and electricity. In 1988 the German student spent on average 951 DM per month. Three years earlier this was only 863 DM.[1] Of course there are major national variations. Studying in Düsseldorf for example is much more expensive than studying in Passau.
Foreign EC exchange students do not seem to have many financial problems. Most of them have an Erasmus grant in combination with a national grant or private funds. Students who have huge financial difficulties in most cases come from Eastern Europe.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Student accommodation in some part of Germany presents a multiplicity of problems and is the most important obstacle for student mobility. Germany does not have a campus system in which all students are assured of accommodation upon registration. There are some student halls of residence, but most German and foreign students (90%) have to find their own accommodation on the private market. In many cases student unions and the Akademische Auslandsämter help foreign EC students to find a room, especially if they come in the framework of a programme like Erasmus. However the situation is so grave that according to the DAAD it sometimes happens that foreigners have to go home after six weeks because they cannot find a roof over their heads.
In general finding accommodation is relatively easy for foreign EC students, in comparison with foreign non-EC students. Still, foreign EC exchange students have a lot of problems, because of their short stay and their modest knowledge of the German language. For special student groups, mainly for those from developing countries and also for foreign EC exchange students within European programmes who are particularly affected by the housing shortage, the "Europa-Häuser programme" has been launched. The lodging period in these houses should not exceed two terms and is temporary until other accommodation is found. The houses are now to be found in more than six university cities.
The rents in the halls of residence are relatively low, about 250 DM per month. On the private market students have to pay much more (possibly more than 400 DM). In 1988 German students on average paid 264 DM per month for accommodation.

[1]Das soziale Bild der Studentenschaft in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Bonn 1989), 251.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

Foreign EC transfer students, who will complete their studies in Germany, of course get exactly the same treatment as the German students in this respect.
Foreign EC exchange students form a different category. Every university in Germany has an Akademisches Auslandsamt where foreign students can get information and advice. Most universities have a special budget for social services for all students. In practice foreign EC students do not have many academic or social problems compared to other foreign students. Besides the Auslandsämter, every institution has self organised student clubs and unions. At some institutions, for example the University of Cologne, special activities are organised for Erasmus students (excursions etc.). Academically Erasmus students of course are guided by the host coordinator of their ICP, or another mentor. Finally both German and foreign students receive a "Studentenausweis" (student ID-card) upon registration and can as a rule use public transport at reduced prices.

Students, who want to study in Germany, can apply for initial information at branche offices of the DAAD or the Goethe Institutes in their home country.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Framework Act for Higher Education (Hochschulrahmengesetz) (BMBW, Bonn 1986).
- Das soziale Bild der Studentenschaft in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 12. Sozialerhebung des Deutschen Studentenwerkes in: Studien Bildung Wissenschaft 84 (BMBW, Bonn 1989).
- Westdeutsche Rektorenkonferenz: Arbeitsmaterialien. Zusammenstellung bildungspolitischer Daten (Bonn 1989).
- Westdeutsche Rektorenkonferenz: Kooperationsvereinbarungen (Partnerschaften) zwischen deutschen und ausländischen Hochschulen (Bonn 1987).
- Hochschulgesetze Nordrhein-Westfalen (MWF NRW, Düsseldorf 1987).
- Handbuch Hochschulen in Nordrhein-Westfalen I: Gesetze-Verordnungen-Erlasse (MWF NRW, Düsseldorf 1988).
- Handbuch Hochschulen in Nordrhein-Westfalen II: Staatliche Hochschulen Nordrhein-Westfalen -Daten-Studienangebote-Anschriften (MWF NRW, Düsseldorf 1989).
- Äquivalenzen im Hochschulbereich (MWF NRW, Düsseldorf 1989).
- Vertrag zwischen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik: Einigungsvertrag (Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung Bonn 1990).
- Higher education institutions in eastern Germany: Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxe-Anhalt, Thuringia, Berlin (east) (DAAD, Bonn 1991).
- Studienland EG: Geförderte Kooperationsprogramme deutscher Hochschulen 1989/90 (DAAD, Bonn 1989).
- Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst: Rôle-Objectifs-Programmes (DAAD, Bonn 1990).
- Das Studium in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland: Informationen über das Studium an den wissenschaftlichen Hochschulen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland einschließlich Berlin (west) für Ausländer und Staatenlose (DAAD, Bonn 1990).
- Studium im Ausland: Hinweise für Studenten (BMBW, Bonn 1990).
- Deutsch-Französischer Studentenaustausch: Übersicht über Stipendien und Beihilfen (BMBW, Bonn 1990).
- Praxissemester im Ausland für deutsche Fachhochschulstudenten (Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft, Köln).
- The effects and evaluation of programmes and policies for foreign students and study abroad: country report Germany (paper OECD Seminar on Higher Education and the Flow of Foreign Students, Hannover 1990).
- Sources of finance for international education in Europe: the German experience.
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- Higher education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The student handbook, 6th edition (1990).
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- E. Berning, Accommodation of Erasmus-students in the member states of the European Community (München 1991).

- R.C.J.M. Broekmeulen, Vrij verkeer van studenten in Europa? (unpublished 1988).
- Das soziale Bild der Studentenschaft in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland: Auslandstudium-Einstellungen und Erfahrungen der deutschen Studierenden (Deutsches Studentenwerk e.V., Bonn 1990).
- Wohnraum für Studenten. Statistische Übersicht 1990 (Deutsches Studentenwerk e.V., Bonn 1990).
- Bafög 90/91: Was sich ändert und welche Möglichkeiten es gibt (BMBW, Bonn 1991).
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- Gepa Maibaum, Die Kooperation im Bildungswesen muß gefördert werden in: BBJ EG News 7, 08-04-1991).
- Brochure: University of Cologne.
- Wegweiser der Universität zu Köln.
- Treffpunkt Universität zu Köln.
- Brochure: Otto-Friedrich Universität Bamberg.
- Studium in Göttingen.
- Auf einen Blick: Technische Hochschule Ilmenau.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Germany

April 2: Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf
- Herr Schneider
- Frau Haneklaus

April 3: University of Cologne
- Herr Paulig; head Akademisches Auslandamt
- Frau dr. Nagel; Dezenat I
- Herr Heider; staff member Akademisches Auslandamt

April 4: Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Bonn
- Herr Grothus; staff member DAAD

April 4: Westdeutsche Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Bonn
- Herr Klaus

April 5: Bundesministerium für Bilding und Wissenschaft, Bonn
- Frau U. Dolezal

GREECE

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

Tertiary education in Greece falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of National Education and Cults. It comprises higher education with its universities (AEI) and the technical tertiary education level with its technical training facilities (TEI).
In the near future the Greek tertiary education system might undergo changes. On this topic the Ministry is engaged in a National Dialogue for Education, implicating educational actors at all levels. AEI present courses from 8 to 10 semesters, while TEI courses range from 6 to 8 semesters. There is a widespread conviction that the TEI institutions should undergo some reform, though concrete proposals are not yet available.

National students

To get access to tertiary education, a Greek student needs a school leaving-certificate of a lycée (12 years), called the "apolitirio". Furthermore he/she has to pass a general examination. This examination takes place at a national level and is organised by the Ministry of Education. In the twelfth year of secondary school the future student has to choose one out of four categories of disciplines. During that year he receives specialised education, preparing him/her for the general examination in that specific group of disciplines. The four categories are:

1. technical universities and TEI, physical science schools, military academies, fine arts schools, agricultural universities;
2. medical schools, dental schools, pharmacy;
3. language and literature schools, schools of psychology and sociology, law schools, schools of theology;
4. schools of economics, schools of political and social science.

Greece has numerus clausus regulations for all institutions and courses. The number of places available each year is determined by the Ministry in consultation with the respective institutions. The criteria used, are the capacity of the institutions and the demands of society. In most cases the number determined by the government is higher than the one determined by the institutions themselves. The students are selected on the basis of their examination marks (at least 10 out of 20), and their personal preferences.
Only one fifth of the Greek applicants can be admitted to tertiary education. Therefore a lot of students (1 out of 3-4) go to study abroad. Most of them go to Germany, France and the UK because of the language, and to Italy, because of the open higher education system. The government is looking for a solution to this problem. The first option might be to found Greek branches of foreign (e.g. American) institutions. A second solution could be the creation of new private institutions for tertiary education. However, the Greek constitution prohibits the foundation of private universities. The policy of the present government is to adjust the constitution in this respect. But such changes will not be implemented before 1994, the year of the elections. Due to a lack of money the Greek government cannot found new public institutions.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign nationals with a Greek school leaving-certificate are not treated as Greek nationals. They do not have to pass the general entry examinations.

Foreign EC transfer students

Within the numerus clausus regulations a number of places are reserved for special groups of applicants. This quota of not more than 20% in total is determined every year by the Ministry of National Education and Cults. The institutions try to limit the percentages to an absolute minimum. The special groups are:

- foreign (transfer and national) students: 1%;
- students of Greek origin who have lived abroad for more than five years: 6%;
- foreigners or applicants of Greek origin who have been awarded a Greek government scholarship: 1%;
- Cypriots; 5-10%, depending on the course.

Since the Greek system reserves a special quota for transfer students, they do not have to pass an entry examination or personal interview. The transfer students only have to get their foreign certificates equivalated and recognised in Greece. The selection of the candidates is a decision of the Ministry of National Education and Cults.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students (Erasmus) fall outside this whole system of numerus clausus regulations and special quota. They are selected by their home institutions on the basis of criteria, laid down within the bilateral agreement or ICP.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Greece applies the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas Leading to Admission to Universities, but has no formal equivalence agreements with other EC Member States.

The Inter-university Institute for the Recognition of Foreign Certificates and Degrees (DIKATSA) decides on the equivalence of foreign certificates and degrees concerning universities. The Institute for Technological Education (ITE) does the same for TEI-like institutions. Both the Ministry and the institutions which were visited stated that recognition in practice does not cause any major problems for foreign EC transfer students. Foreign EC exchange students are not confronted with these procedures.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Foreign EC transfer students

The procedure is rather complicated if it involves foreign EC transfer students, who are part of the fixed 1% quota. This procedure is written down in the "Guide on access of foreign students to the tertiary education system in Greece", published in 1990 by the Directorate of Higher Education (Section of Higher Education Entrance Examinations) of

the Ministry of National Education and Cults. To obtain a complete picture of the procedures and requirements, we quote part of the general instructions:

"Foreigners must submit their relative documents to the Ministry of National Education and Religion, Section Higher Education Entrance Examinations, from 1st to 10th August. They are also obliged to fill in the candidate's application-entry form stating either the schools or departments they prefer. Such an application-entry form is given to the candidates while they are submitting their documents.

The documents are submitted either by the candidates themselves or by an authorised person on their own behalf. The candidates who submit their documents have to have with them either their passport or the document of their legal residence permit in Greece. If the candidates are not able to submit their documents by themselves, their authorised person can submit a declaration stating they are abroad. But, if the candidates are in Greece and their documents are submitted by an authorised person of theirs, a ratified copy of the candidates' passport or of their residence permit justifying their legal presence in Greece must be submitted.

The essential documents are:
- the candidate's application-entry form;
- graduation certificate of his/her studies from a secondary school having been ratified either by the Department of Education of the country it has been issued or by the Embassy of this country in Greece;
- a report certificate of his/her average marks having been issued either by the Department of Education or by the competent educational service of his/her country or by the Embassy of this country in Greece. The average of the general marks should be based on a point-scale (0-20); 20 is the highest point, 0 is the lowest one;
- a certificate showing not only the candidate's citizenship but also his/her parents' citizenship and descent;
- a written statement issued by the competent authority of the candidate's country confirming that his/her graduation certificate entitles him/her to be enrolled at a higher education institution at home;
- a declaration that the candidate does not hold any degree from a Greek higher education institution.

All the documents which are issued by a foreign service (either school or any other educational service) must be:
- ratified for the authenticity of the signature of him/her who has signed them either by the Greek diplomatic authority abroad or by the diplomatic authority of his foreign country in Greece; in addition to this these documents must be ratified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Greece;
- translated into Greek either by the Greek diplomatic authority abroad or by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Greece.

Documents such as certificates of studies, testimonials etc., which have been issued by the following countries: .... [among others all EC-countries] .... need not have been confirmed for their authenticity by the Greek authority abroad."

Furthermore, before being registered, the foreign EC transfer students have to give proof of their proficiency in Greek and must undergo a medical examination.

Foreign EC exchange students

For foreign EC exchange (Erasmus) students the application and registration procedures are relatively easy. They have to complete a form in a language in which they are proficient and send a letter written by the professor of their home institution. They do not have to give any financial guarantees.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate courses in Greece are given in the Greek language. Greek students, who have lived abroad for more than five years have to pass a language test at the Ministry of National Education and Cults, before they can be registered at a Greek institution.

Foreign students do not have to pass a proficiency test. They must give evidence of a sufficient knowledge of Greek by means of a language certificate of the Foreign Language Institute of the Athens University Club or the Institute for Modern Greek of the University of Thessaloniki.

The tuition fees for these language courses amount to DR 27,000 a year. Twice a year the University of Thessaloniki offers Erasmus students special intensive winter courses at three different levels. These courses cost ECU 120. If language costs are not estimated within the budget of an ICP, the students have to pay for the language courses themselves.

The language barrier is probably the main obstacle for taking up a course of study in Greece.

5. TUITION FEES

National students

Greek students do not pay any tuition fees. Attendance at a TEI-institution is free both for national and for foreign students.

Foreign students

However, foreign students, registered at an AEI-institution, have to pay fees to cover a percentage of the costs of the study expenses and the textbooks they are given. For medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and the engineering faculties foreign students pay DR 72,000 a year. The tuition fees for all other courses amount to DR 54,000.

However, according to the OECD-paper of Prof. G. Koukis the fees range from DR 80,000 to DR 100,000.[1] The fees are payable in two installments.
Students from countries in which Greek students are not required to pay fees are exempted from having to pay fees in Greek higher education institutions. Finally, students who are nationals of EC countries only pay half the fees charged to other foreign students.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

A very limited number of Greek students can obtain a national grant. The grant depends on the academic record of the students and the parental income. The grants are awarded by the National Scholarship Foundation (IKY). Every year 5,000 students at AEI-institutions and 2,500 students at TEI-institutions receive an average annual grant of DR 55,000.
Furthermore the state grants interest-free loans since the academic year 1983/1984.

Foreign EC students

Foreign holders of degrees who originate from member states of the Council of Europe can apply for a scholarship at the IKY in order to enable them to prepare a doctoral thesis in Greece. The initial duration of the scholarship is one year and it can be prolonged if the performance of the scholarship holder has been assessed as satisfactory.
The University of Athens has an Educational Assistance Office which provides moral and material support for students. This support can take the form of advice, materials and of money and is not limited to Greek students.[2]

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

The exact rules and procedures concerning entry and residence requirements are not very clear. The "Guide on access to tertiary education for foreign students" of the Ministry of National Education and Cults states that:

> "The [foreign] candidates being admitted to higher education of our country may have only the right to stay in Greece on condition that there are no reasons excluding the granting of this stay-permit".

According to our informants, EC-students do not meet with any problems in this respect. The Greek government does not ask any financial guarantees. If a foreign student wants to work during his stay in Greece, he needs a visa.

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[1] G. Koukis, International seminar on higher education and the flow of foreign students: National report by the Greek representative (Hannover 1990).

[2] "Higher education in the European Community. The student handbook" (1990:6).

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

All national and foreign students, registered at Greek AEI and TEI institutions, are entitled to free medical care. Erasmus students enjoy the same advantages.

9. COST OF LIVING

According to the Ministry of National Education and Cults a (foreign) student needs at least DR 60,000 a month for basic needs. The TEI of Athens and the University of Thessaloniki estimate the monthly cost of living at DR 80,000 and DR 100,000 respectively.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Officially 8% of the rooms in student residences are reserved for foreign students, but none of the informants we spoke with knew anything about this. The rooms are subsidised and the monthly rent is very low. However, due to the shortage of student housing a lot of students, national and foreign, have to rent a room on the private market. A private room costs between DR 20,000 and DR 40,000 a month.
Universities often close deals with hotels to accommodate foreign EC exchange students. In Thessaloniki the university has a special house for Erasmus students at its disposal. Up until now foreign Erasmus students have not had to pay any rent. But their numbers are increasing rapidly and they can no longer all be accommodated in the Erasmus house. This means the university has to revert to private rooms. Since it would not be fair to only charge the Erasmus students in private rooms, the university has decided that all Erasmus students will have to pay rents in future. The rents will amount to DR 18,000 - DR 20,000 a month. Finally the university of Thessaloniki is planning to start a so-called "House of Europe" for all EC-affairs: the accommodation of short-term exchange students and staff, symposia and information purposes.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

Due to the small number of foreign students in Greece, higher education institutions as a rule do not have special facilities for foreigners. There are some exceptions however: for instance, the University of Thessaloniki, having the highest number of foreigners, publishes English editions of its departmental study guides.This policy is also followed by a few other institutions in Greece (e.g. University of Ioannina, University of Athens). The Ministry also produces a concise study guide for all TEIs in English.[1]
If the foreign students are officially registered at a Greek institution for tertiary education, they receive a 50% reduction on meals and public transport.

[1] For example: Student's guide 1990/1991 of the Faculty of Law, School of Law and Economics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Initial information on studying in Greece is offered by the Greek diplomatic representation in the student's home country, and further by the Ministry of Education in Greece, the Public Relations Office of the Athens University Club and the respective institutions themselves.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Academic recognition of higher of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions (NARIC).
- E. Berning, Accommodation of Erasmus students in the Member States of the European Community (München 1991).
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- M. Eginitou-Panayotidou, Le programme Erasmus et l'orientation universitaire.
- M. Eginitou-Panayotidou, "To programma Erasmus: Elliniki pragmatikotita kai prooptikes" in: D.G. Tsaousis, I Europaiki proklisi stin tritovathmia ekpaideusi.
- Eisagógi stin tritovathmia ekpaideusi/Kateuthunseis spoudon mathimata genikis achiologisis.
- Odigis gia tin eisagógi allogenón - allodapón stin tritovathmia ekpaideusi tis Elladas.
- Brochure: Athens University of Economics and Business.
- Brochure: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Law and Economics, Faculty of Law: student's guide 1990-1991.
- Intensive winter courses in Modern Greek for Erasmus students: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Greece

May 28: Ministry of National Education and Cults / Idrima Kratikon Ypotrofion (National Scholarship Foundation), Athens
- Mrs. Dragona; IKY
- Mrs. M. Eginitou-Panayoditou; Ministry of National Education and Cults (Eurydice)
- Mr. Dimakes; Ministry of National Education and Cults

May 28: TEI Athens, Athens
- Prof. George S. Mouzakitis
- Dr. Christos P. Kitsos

May 30: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki
- Mrs. prof. Vasso Tocatlidou
- Mrs. dr. Olympia Tziampiri-Guiba

SPAIN

R.M. Mertens

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

National students

University studies cover almost the entire system of higher education in Spain. There are two types of university courses in Spain: long courses of five or six years and short courses of three years. Long courses are given at "Faculties" and "Higher Technical Schools".[1] Short courses are given at "University Colleges" (which are always affiliated to universities) and at "University Schools".[2]
There are a few courses at other institutions of higher education that are equivalent to university level; courses in merchant shipping, physical education and tourism.
Courses in drama, dance, music and singing are of a non-university level.

There are four ways to enter higher education in Spain:

1. The most common way to enter higher education consists of completion of the following courses and examinations:
   - BUP - higher secondary school certificate; "Bachillerato Unificado y Polivalente"; two years;
   - COU - introductory course; "curso de Orientación Universitaria"; one year;
   - PAAU - entry examination for long-type university courses; "Pruebas de Aptitud para el acceso a la Universidad", also called "Selectividad".

   Some notes:
   Besides some compulsory disciplines, students have to choose one of the four different options at higher secondary school; natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, technology and arts.
   The introductory course "COU" has also four options; natural sciences and technology, social sciences, humanities, and "bio-sanitaria".[3]

   In theory, the entry examination "Selectividad" is only compulsory for entrance to the long-type university courses.
   Practice, however, shows that this entry examination is "almost necessary" to obtain a place at any course of higher education.
   The "Selectividad" is organised by the institution itself or by the Open University UNED. (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)[4] The examination is held twice a year, in June and in September on dates set for the whole country. Items of the exam are the same everywhere; but the detailed questions can differ from one institution to another. The level is the same everywhere. Applicants who pass the "Selectividad" in June, have more chance to enter the course of their first choice at the university.

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[1] The Spanish names: Facultades; Escuelas Técnicas Superiores.

[2] The Spanish names: Colegios Universitarios, Escuelas Universitarias.

[3] Bio-sanitaria is an option at the COU which prepares for medical-related studies.

[4] This depends on whether education is under the responsibility of the autonomous region concerned (this is the case in 7 regions; the examination is organised by the institutions) or under responsibility of the national ministry of education.

2. Holders of a certificate of the advanced level of vocational training (Formación Profesional de segundo grado) can be directly admitted to a "University School" (short-type university courses), without taking the entry examination. The subject of the university course has to be the same as the subject of the vocational training course. 30% of the places at "University schools" are reserved for this group.

3. For people over 25 years old without any entry qualifications, the possibility exists of taking a special admission examination to enter higher education. Candidates who pass this examination are automatically placed at the institution of their choice.

4. 5% of the places at long-type courses is reserved for people with a degree "Licenciado" and "Diplomado". (Degrees from short-type university courses at University Colleges and University Schools)

Every year, the University Council determines the number of places available for each institution.[1] Since 1982, there is a numerus clausus for 70% of all courses. The numerus clausus is based on the capacity of the institutions and on the ratio teachers:students.

To select the candidates for the available places, the following criteria are considered:

a. The marks of the BUP, COU and Selectividad. The average mark of the BUP counts for 25%, of the COU for 25% and of the Selectividad for 50%.
b. Chosen option of BUP. Priority is given to students who choose a subject at higher education which is related to their option at BUP.
c. Moment of passing the Selectividad. Priority is given to students who passed the Selectividad in June above candidates who passed in September.
d. For short-type university courses, priority is given to students who passed the Selectividad, although the entry examination is not strictly required. Students who did not pass the Selectividad are selected on the grounds of their BUP and COU marks.

Students will only be admitted to institutions in the region of their residence. There is one exception; candidates from the district Madrid and Barcelona can choose either of these districts.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign EC students with a Spanish secondary school leaving-certificate are treated like Spanish students with respect to entry requirements and limitations.

Foreign EC transfer students

As "foreign" students are considered all students with foreign secondary school qualifications, even if they have the Spanish nationality, this means that in practice most students at Spanish universities, are indeed Spanish.
Most of the foreign students are from South-America.
Foreign EC students count for 32% of the foreign student population.

[1] All rectors from all universities and the ministers of education of the autonomous communities are represented in the University Council.

Their foreign secondary school certificate must be recognised by the Spanish national Ministry of Education in Madrid as equivalent to the Spanish COU.
Students with a recognised certificate have to pass the "Pruebas de Aptitud para Acceso a la Universidad - Alumnos con estudios extranjeros convalidables". This is the "Selectividad" for foreign applicants, an entry examination similar to that which all Spanish students have to pass. The examination is organised by the UNED (Universidad Nacional de Ecucación a Distancia). In many countries, this examination can be taken at the associated centres of the UNED at Spanish consulates, otherwise at the UNED in Madrid.[1]

From that point on, if the candidate has passed the examination, then procedures and selection system are exactly the same for both 'foreigners' and holders of the Spanish COU. Except for Luxembourg and Greece, there are special tables to convert the marks of secondary school certificates into the Spanish mark-system.

Numbers of all foreign students may not exceed 5% of the total student population. Since 1986, however, foreign students from member states of the European Community, are not included in this quota.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students within organised programmes like Erasmus are selected in their country of origin by their home institution. They are automatically accepted by the Spanish institution concerned. Acceptance is based on mutual trust between the institutions.
Free floaters have to apply at the institution of their choice with full documentation of their studies and motivation for a period of study in Spain. The institutions decide themselves whether to accept the student or not. Spanish universities are quite 'open' to free floaters. There are many possibilities for these students to study in Spain for a period of time, especially to take courses in Spanish history, Spanish and different regional languages. Free floaters can choose disciplines in which they are interested or draw up their own programme.
In the framework of the Erasmus programme, the official school for Tourism in Madrid (non-university sector) has been in touch with the following countries for the last two years, namely France, Germany, the UK and Italy. Students are selected by the home institution.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Recognition of full degrees is always the responsibility of the National Ministry in Madrid[2], while recognition of periods of study is always the responsibility of the institutions.

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[1]EC countries where the examination can be taken are: France, Germany, United Kingdom and Belgium.

[2]In most cases, this will be the Ministry of Education. There are some exceptions. For example, courses in Tourism and Hotel Management are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce.

Foreign EC transfer students

Secondary school certificates

Spain has special agreements with 46 countries about recognition of higher secondary school qualifications. Except for Greece and Luxembourg, all the European Community countries are included. The International Baccalaureate is also considered as equivalent to the COU.

Even though agreements are made, the recognition of certificates and marks is not automatic, therefore every applicant has to have them recognised by the national Ministry of Education in Madrid.

There is one exception; the Italian secondary school leaving-certificate is recognised automatically.

Periods of study and final degrees

Foreign EC students who have already completed part of their university study in another country and who want to transfer to a Spanish university, have to get recognition of their level from the institution of their choice. The institution decides in which year the applicant may start. This might lead to a major problem; if the institution does not recognise the period of study to be equivalent to the complete first year in the Spanish system, the student has to do the whole first year again. This means that he has to follow the complete procedure of admission to university courses in Spain. In this case, he has to pass the 'Selectividad' with good marks to get through the selection procedure successfully in order to obtain entry.

Graduated students can do their PhD degree in Spain. However, the degree is not automatically recognised as equivalent to the Spanish PhD. PhD holders can apply for recognition at the Ministry of Education.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC free floaters receive no Spanish academic recognition for their period of study in Spain. Recognition is in this case a matter of the home institution of the student.

The same applies to Erasmus students. For them, however, recognition is more regulated than for free floaters.

The Erasmus programme for French students at the official school for Tourism in Madrid consists of the complete last (third) year of their study and a practical training. In this way they get both degrees, the French and the Spanish. Students from the UK and from Germany only get their national degree, because British students only do a practical training in Spain, and German students do not follow the complete year in Spain. The situation for Italian students is not yet established.

The French Erasmus students at the official school for tourism have to take some additional exams upon return to their home institutions. It concerns compulsory disciplines; English, Spanish, French and Spanish civilisation. Besides that they have to write three short essays about Spain.

The official school for tourism in Madrid has its own post-graduate year. It increases the chances on the labour-market in an important way, but has no academic recognition, neither for Spanish nor for foreign students.

The ETM programme within the courses of Tourism in Europe is also a post-graduate programme. A diploma is issued and has international professional recognition but no academic recognition.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

National students and foreign EC students with national qualifications

Holders of the Spanish BUP have to apply for admission to the university of their choice. On the application form they have to indicate alternative options for institutions and subjects, in case they will not be admitted to their first choice. The number of alternatives to be indicated differs from region to region.[1]

Applicants take their entry examination at the institution of their first choice. (or at the UNED, for some autonomous communities). The results of the examination hold for the entire country. If they are not selected by the institution of their first choice (if their marks were not sufficient for the concerned subject), their application will be transferred to the institution or subject of their second choice, etc. Once they are selected for admission, they can enrol at the institution concerned.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students have to have their secondary school leaving-certificate ratified at the Spanish Consulate in their country. There is no indication about the time span, but it is strongly recommended to do this as soon as possible.

They also apply at the consulate for the entry examination. The UNED organises entry examinations in Brussels, Paris, London and in Bonn. Applicants from other countries have to take the examination at the UNED in Madrid. The examination is held in June. For applicants who fail the first time, there is a second opportunity in September.

Once they are selected for admission, they can enrol at the institution concerned.

Foreign EC applicants pay Ptas. 6,280 for taking the entry examination.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All lectures are held in national Spanish as well in the languages of the Autonomous Communities, like Catalan in Catalonia.

Both foreign EC transfer and exchange students must have a good command of the Spanish language. Foreign institutions sending Erasmus students are expected to take into consideration the knowledge of Spanish when selecting their candidates. Foreign EC transfer students do not have to undergo a language test, as they will never be able to pass the Selectividad if their knowledge of Spanish is not sufficient.

There is a wide variety of Spanish language and/or culture courses organised by the Spanish institutions of higher education, both during the summer period and term time. The 'Menéndez Pelayo' International University offers summer courses in Spanish language and literature.

[1] In the district Barcelona, 8 different options can be given. In the district of Madrid, 50 options can be given.

5. TUITION FEES

National and foreign EC transfer students

Within a certain range which is determined by the national Ministry of Education, institutions can themselves set the level of fees charged.
In practice, all the state-run universities charge the same tuition fees.
This is 43,000 Ptas for one academic year for all subjects except for applied and natural sciences. The fee for those sciences is 65,000 Ptas. For each extra discipline a student wants to follow 11,000 Ptas and 16,000 Ptas respectively must be paid.
Both foreign EC transfer students and Spanish students pay the same fees.

Foreign EC exchange students

The fee paid by foreign EC free floaters depends on their programme of study. The fee might be for a whole academic year or for some disciplines only.
Erasmus students do not pay any fee.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

The national grant system consists of a general grant for students with a parental income of under Ptas 220,000 and additional financial aids for various aspects of the costs of living of a student.
There are financial aids for travel costs (depending on the distance between the student's residence and the university), didactic materials, accommodation (in case the student does not live with his parents), and tuition fees. Students can apply for each of the different subjects of financial support. Only very few students benefit from this grant.
Spanish Erasmus students receive an Erasmus grant. In almost all cases, the Spanish students only received their Erasmus grant a few months after they started the programme, which caused them a lot of problems.

Foreign EC students

There are some bilateral cultural agreements between Spain and other countries by which foreign students can obtain a grant for studies in Spain. Most of these are reciprocal agreements between universities of different countries and most of the grants are used for post-graduate studies. In the field of tourism, there are also possibilities of grants for foreign students. Applicants are assessed individually by the institution and the national Ministry.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Foreign EC students can stay in Spain for three months without a residence permit. After three months, they have to apply for a permit at the local aliens' police office.
The authorities require information on the purpose of the stay and proof of sufficient means of living.

Neither the University of Barcelona, nor the official school of Tourism in Madrid require a permit, nor do they advise students to apply for it or provide them with any kind of relevant information.
For this reason, many students from EC member-states stay in Spain without a residence permit.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

In Spain, all students under 28 are covered by a compulsory student health insurance ("seguro escolar"). Spain has reciprocal agreements with a number of countries as regards coverage of foreign students from these countries in the same way as Spanish students. All the EC countries are included in these agreements. Foreign EC students over 28 years old, can be insured by the national Spanish social security system, on showing their E 111 form. The system includes complete coverage, but only for treatment by doctors and hospitals indicated by the government. Treatment by private doctors has to be paid.

9. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living is around Ptas 90,000 a month in Madrid and Barcelona and a little less in other cities. Depending on the student's way of living and type of accommodation, a minimum of Ptas 55,000 must be calculated. Spain is one of the most expensive countries of the Community in terms of cost of living for foreign (and national students who do not live at home) students.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Universities have student halls of residence which provide full-board accommodation. However, the number of students who wish to live in a student residence exceeds the number of rooms available by far. Other possibilities are living in with families or private apartments. Furthermore, experience has shown that foreign students prefer accommodation with other Spanish and foreign students in shared flats (cheaper, more independent, more contacts).
Universities provide students with addresses of rooms and apartments to rent.
A room in a residence hall costs between Ptas 45,000 and 65,000 (full board and lodging), a room with a family about Ptas 30,000 and a private apartment about Ptas 65,000 a month. (depending on the number of rooms; about Ptas 1,000 per square meter). Most students share private apartments.
Several universities provide provisional accommodation upon arrival and help the foreign students to find permanent accommodation.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

Most Spanish universities have a vice-rectorate for foreign students and/or an International relations department which provide a social programme. Open student associations collaborate with the institutions and help foreign students to integrate into social and academic life.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

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- Cursos de Turismo en España. Esuela oficial de Turismo. Brochure.
- Escuela Oficial de Turismo Madrid. Programas de los cursos de especialización. Orden 22 Marzo de 1983. (B.O.E. del 1 de Abril).
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- European Tourism Management. Postgraduate diploma. Dorset Institute, Netherlands Institute of Tourism and Transport studies, Fachhochschule Heilbronn, Université de Savoie.
- Erasmus. Univeridad Politécnica de Valencia. Brochure.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Spain

May 28: Ministry of Education and Science, General Subdirection of International Cooperation; Madrid:
- Francisco Santhis Garcia: General Subdirection of International Cooperation;
- D. Jose L. del Hierro: General Direction of Higher Education;
- Ms Dr M. Teresa Diez Iturrioz; Technical Counsellor for Cooperation with the European Community.

May 28: Official State School of Tourism; Madrid:
- Ms Christina Recoder; Subdirector of the school;
- Ms Antonia Urquia; Multilateral Relations;
- Ms Marcena Mioduszewska, Bilateral Relations;
- Students from Spain and Germany.

May 29: University Council; Madrid:
- Mr. Juan Ariño, Technical Councellor.

May 30: University of Barcelona:
- Mr Carles Marti i Jufresa, Head of the International Office;
- Mr Rossello;
- Mr Rodriguez, Rector;
- Students from Germany, France, Italy and Belgium.

FRANCE

R.M. Mertens

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

France has a wide range of courses and institutions of higher education. The curriculum of every course is strictly divided into academic years or cycles, each with their own degrees. After almost every degree, students can continue their study in order to reach a more advanced degree, or stop studying and enter the labour market. There are many possibilities for "passerelles", to switch from one degree-course to another.

National students

French students who want to enter higher education need the secondary school certificate the "Baccalauréat". With this certificate, they can enter:

- Universities. The first two years lead to the degree DEUG (Diplôme d'études universitaires générales) or to the degree DEUST (Diplôme d'études universitaires scientifiques et technologiques). The DEUG is designed to continue studies to the degrees "Licence" (DEUG + 1 year) and "Maîtrise" (Licence + 1 year), while the DEUST is also designed for entering the labour market.
  For medical studies the situation is different. There is no DEUG. The first year leads to the degree PCEM (Premier cycle d'études médicales) and is meant as a first phase to continued studying.

- Technical University Institutions (IUT; Institut Universitaire de Technologie), which are related to the universities and have two year courses which lead to the degree DUT (diplôme universitaire de technologie). Sixty percent of the holders of this degree enter the labour market.

- Technical "Lycées" with the "Sections de techniciens supérieurs", which have two year courses that lead to the degree BTS (Brevet de technicien supérieur). This course is more practical and more specialised. Eighty percent of the students with this degree enter the labour market. Fifty percent of these "lycées" are private institutions.

- General "Lycées", which prepare the student in two years at the "Classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles", for entering the "Grandes Ecoles", (the most exclusive institutions of higher education in France), and other specialised schools. These schools can be public and private.

- Schools of Art
  Under certain circumstances there is a possibility to enter higher education for students who do not have their Baccalaureate.
  This examination is open to students who are over 24 years old or who are more than 20 years old and have professional experience for at least two years.

Limitations

Universities are open to every holder of the Baccalaureate, and universities are obliged by law, to admit all Baccalaureate candidates to the first year of a course.

Entrance to other institutions (Institut Universitaire de Technologie, section de techniciens supérieurs, classe préparatoire aux grandes écoles) is very selective.
Candidates are selected "sur dossier". This means there are no entry examinations (except for schools of art) but selection is based on the results of the Baccalaureate and the curriculum vitae of the student.

Universities are obliged by law to admit a holder of the Baccalaureate to the first year of a university course. This does not mean, however, that the students will always be placed on the course they prefer.
Even though there is no official numerus clausus for the first year of the courses, universities use their own methods of selecting candidates, in order to control the influx of students into certain courses. The maximum influx in the first year is based on the capacity of the institution.
Priority is given to:

- candidates who finished their Baccalaureate in the year concerned;
- candidates who finished their Baccalaureate in the same region where the university is situated;
- some universities take into consideration the school results of the Baccalaureate, in a sense that they strongly advise not to register if the marks are not sufficient.

The "real" selection takes place after the first cycle of higher education courses. Students have to pass an examination at the end of the first cycle in order to continue their studies.

Universities
After the first two years of study, students have to pass the DEUG degree (or DEUST in some cases). To pass the DEUG, twenty "unit points" must be obtained. Students who successfully reach this level, can continue for further degrees. Students can study for a maximum of five years to obtain the degree DEUG or DEUST. Only 35% passes the DEUG degree in two years.

A numerus clausus for the second cycle only exists for medical studies and is set annually by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The numerus clausus is based on the need of society for university graduates and on the capacity of the institutions.
For medical studies, the examination for the PCEM degree takes place after one year. Students have to pass the examination with sufficient marks. Students are ranked according to their marks until the numerus clausus is reached. Only 20% succeeds. Students have only two chances to sit the exam.

The problem of this system of "natural selection" at universities is the high "drop-out" rate after the first and second year.[1]

[1]The high "abandon ratio" is also caused by another problem. Many people who actually do not intend to study, register for the first cycle of university courses in order to be insured by the social security system and not to have the status of being unemployed. (Being unemployed leads to many obligations, eg. regular presentation at the unemployment office).

Grandes Ecoles

Holders of the CPGE degree (Classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles) are eligible for admission at the Grandes Ecoles. But to enter a course at one of these schools, applicants have to pass the entry examination which is organised by the school itself. Admission to these schools is very selective, as the number of places available is far less than the number of applicants. In addition to the entry examination, every school can use its own selection criteria and selection methods. The Grande Ecole du Commerce in Paris selects their candidates as follows: written entry examination (5,885 candidates in 1990), oral examination (910 candidates remaining), personal interview (down to 260 candidates).

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign EC students with a French secondary school leaving-certificate are treated like the national students.

Foreign EC transfer students

The institutions in France are very autonomous as regards admission rules. It is the competence of the institutions to ratify foreign secondary school qualifications.[1] For the member states of the European Community, however, some regulations are in force according to the European Convention of 1953.[2] This means that foreign EC transfer students with qualifications for access to university studies in their country of origin are eligible for admission to higher education in France.[3]

Besides that, France has bilateral agreements with Germany and Luxembourg about the automatic recognition of the secondary school leaving-certificates that give access to higher education. Furthermore the international secondary school qualifications (French International Baccalaureate, Franco-German Baccalaureate and European Baccalaureate) are equivalent to the French Baccalaureate and are also automatically recognised.

The advantage for these students is, that they can apply directly to the institution of their choice, while other foreign EC transfer students have to apply through the cultural division of the French embassy in their country and have to go through a procedure of "pre-registration".

Foreign EC transfer students who want to apply for admission to other institutions than universities, always have to apply directly to the institution of their choice.

There is no minimum or maximum quota for foreign students.

There is one exception. For medicine in Paris there is a maximum quota of 5 % for all foreign students entering the first cycle.

Except for countries where French is the official language, foreign EC transfer students must undergo a language test to be admitted to higher education.

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[1] At universities, the responsible body for admission is the "Commission Pédagogique", of which the members are elected.

[2] The European Convention applies to state-controlled institutions.

[3] In Greece, candidates must obtain 10 points in their qualifying examination to be admitted to higher education. For admission to French institutions, however, the Greek candidate must have passed the examination with 15 points.

The final decision is always taken by the institution itself. Criteria such as the marks at the final secondary school certificate, results of the language test, school reports of the last year of secondary school, motivation and age are taken into consideration.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC free floaters have to apply directly to the institution of their choice. The institution decides about admission.

Foreign EC exchange students within programmes such as Erasmus or other programmes based on inter-university cooperation, are admitted on the basis of the agreements between the contracting institutions. Students are selected by their home institution to participate in such a programme and admission is trouble-free.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Foreign EC transfer students

Upper secondary school certificates

The French International Baccalaureate, the Franco-German Baccalaureate and the European Baccalaureate are equivalent to the French Baccalaureate.

France has bilateral agreements about the recognition of higher secondary school certificates to enter university studies, with only two member states of the EC. The German Abitur gives access in France to the subjects of sciences, arts and social sciences. The certificate of Luxembourg is recognised to enrol for any subject at the universities of Paris VI, Strasbourg, and the National Institute of Polytechnics in Nancy.[1]

The above-mentioned certificates are automatically recognised and their holders are exempted from the "pre-registration" (see § 1.3).

Periods of study and final degrees

France has bilateral agreements with Germany, Luxembourg and Italy on recognition of intermediate qualifications and final degrees. For Germany this concerns studies in sciences, arts and social sciences. Students from Luxembourg who have passed the Luxembourg "Cours Universitaire" can enter the second year of university courses in France at certain universities. For medical studies this is not automatic however.

The Italian degree "Laurea" is recognised as equivalent to the French degree "Maitrise". (Degree after 4 years' study)

Recognition of all other intermediate degrees or periods of study is the responsibility of the institutions. There are many problems in the determination of the level of foreign EC undergraduate students, because in most member states, degrees for intermediate levels do not exist that much as it is the case in France.

[1] European Convention 1953.

Students who have already passed some years of medicine in their country of origin, are not exempted from the PCEM examination in France.

Foreign EC exchange students

Recognition of periods of study for foreign EC exchange students is a matter of the home institution. French students who study abroad must have their period of study recognised by a jury of professors. This might lead to problems as the decision must be unanimous. The main problems are the fact that programmes from different countries never correspond exactly with each other and that some compulsory disciplines cannot be done in the guest country. These problems exist for foreign EC free floaters as well as for Erasmus students.

Some students' experiences:
German Erasmus students from the Fachhochschule in Cologne, studying languages, participate in a programme in which they take the complete second year in England, the third year in France and the last year in Germany. Every year abroad will be fully recognised and the students will graduate in Germany.
British Erasmus students in French language and literature, who are in England in their third year, follow the second year of the DEUG in France. (They cannot be admitted to the second French cycle). They "lose" one year.

The "Grande école de commerce" in Paris together with four other French Management schools (all members of the "Conférence des Grandes Ecoles"), have their own exchange programmes with schools in the European Community: in Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal. They are also working on the creation of a network of management-schools in capital cities of Europe.
Students who participate in these programmes, obtain a degree "adjoint" from the French management school; they will graduate with the final degree at their home institution.
Foreign EC free floaters mostly come to study for two years and in this way they can obtain a double final degree (the degree of their home institution and the degree of the French école).

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

National students

French students apply to the institution of their choice.
Universities are obliged to enrol them, with the proviso that only 20% of the total number of students may be admitted at a university which is not in the same region where the candidate took his Baccalaureate.
Universities are not obliged, however, to admit the student for his/her first choice of course. Students apply to different universities to enlarge the chances of being placed for the course of their preference.
Students who apply for admission to one of the institutions where admission is very selective (IUT and lycées) mostly apply to a university as well, in order to avoid being excluded from the system of placement.

Foreign EC students

Admission procedures, rules and deadlines for foreigners are very strict in France.
Two systems of application are in force:

1. Direct application to the institution of one's choice

In this case, the institution decides on whether the student is accepted or not. Applicants are strongly advised to be aware of the application deadlines and procedures of the institution concerned.

The procedure of direct application is intended for students:

- with a French Baccalaureate, French International Baccalaureate, Franco-German Baccalaureate or the European Baccalaureate.
- with the German upper secondary school leaving certificate, if they want to apply for humanities, sciences, social sciences, law, political sciences or economics.
- with a grant from the French government or from an international organisation with agreements with France.
- with status of refugee.
- who are children of diplomats in France.
- who want to enter the second cycle of studies, because they have already completed part of higher education in their own country.
- who want to enter an institution which is not a university. (écoles, lycées, art schools, IUT) These schools all have entry examinations.
- who are French and holders of foreign secondary school qualifications. (decree 85)

2. The system of "pre-registration"

This only applies to universities for which students residing abroad have to apply at the French embassy in their country.

All foreign EC students who are not mentioned in (1), have to go through the procedure of the "pre-registration" (as far as it concerns universities).
Rules and time-schedule are as follows:

- Application forms are available between November 15 and January 15 at the cultural division of the French embassy in the country of origin (green application form) or, if they are already resident in France, at the nearest institution of their residence (white application form).[1]
  Applicants have to fill in the application form and return it to the embassy (or the nearest institution if they are already resident in France) before February 1. On the application form, students have to give precise indications of their level and diplomas of their studies and the motivation for studying in France. They have to send in certified translations of the diploma which gives access to universities in their country, a curriculum vitae, certified translations of school reports with marks of the last one or two years of upper secondary school, certified translations of the birth certificate, 15 international "reply-coupons" and two self-addressed envelopes.

[1]Dates for admission in 1991.

Applicants have to indicate the level of the degree they intend to study and in which subject. They can give two universities of their choice, one of which has to be outside Paris.

- Foreign EC students have to do a language test. This is a national test, held once a year in February. The test can be done at the embassy.

- The application form, together with the test and all documents will be sent to the university of the first choice. The "commission pédagogique" controls the language test and decides on the basis of the test and all other documents if the student will be admitted or not.

- From April 15 on, the university informs the student whether he is admitted or not. If admitted, he/she will be informed about the procedures of actual enrolment at the university. If not admitted, the documents will be transferred to the second university, which controls the language test again and decides about admission.

- From May 15 on, the second university informs the student whether he is accepted or not.

In the case of not being accepted at either of the universities, applicants can obtain a third chance at another university by writing to the Ministry of Education before July 10. This is only possible, however, if the candidate obtained 10 points (out of 20) for the language test at either of the universities. The Ministry informs the student before September 15.

Actual enrolment at a University

Papers required by the university on actual enrolment:
- Birth certificate with certified French translation;
- Original diplomas and certificates and documents which state the level of studies, together with certified French translation;
- Proof of insurance by the social security scheme (E 111 form for foreign EC students);
- Proof of third-party insurance;
- Proof of having passed the language test;
- 3 to 6 passport photos;

Deadline for enrolment is July 31. A student card will be after the tuition fees are paid.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All lectures and courses are held in French. Both foreign EC transfer students and exchange students must have a good knowledge of the French language.

Foreign EC transfer students

For foreign EC transfer students, knowledge of French is tested.
Foreign EC transfer students from countries in which the official language is not the French or who do not have a mainly French-language Baccalaureate, must pass a language test before they can be admitted to universities. The test can be done at the cultural division of the French embassy. Students who are already resident in France and students who are exempted from the "pre-registration" (see § 1.3) can take this test at the university of their choice. The test is a national test, held once a year in February and is organised by the "commission pédagogique"[1] of the universities.
The level of the test is about the same as the national diploma DALF (Diplôme Approfondi de la Langue Française).

Foreign EC transfer students have to pass an entry examination to get admission to the "Ecoles". For this reason a separate language test is not necessary. Students whose standard of French is insufficient, will never be able to pass the entry examination.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students do not have to pass a language test.
Erasmus students are expected to have a good knowledge of the French language and their home-institution is expected to select its candidates based on their command of language.

There is a wide range of organisations that offer French language courses, abroad as well as in France and at different prices. For Erasmus students who participate a complete academic year in the programme, an advanced language course is free. This does not however apply to languages students.

5. TUITION FEES

Institutions are free to set their fees.
The tuition fee at universities was FF. 450 for the academic year (1990/1991) and was the same for all universities. There are some compulsory additions, such as social security (FF. 700), medical control (FF. 15) and some optional extras, such as sport-association (FF. 75) and fees for extra courses. (FF. 300). Tuition fees are the same for foreign and national students.

Fees at the "écoles" are very high, between FF. 10,000 and FF. 40,000 a year. The fee at the "Grande école de commerce" in Paris was FF. 24,000 for the academic year 1990/1991. Here again, tuition fees are the same for both national and foreign students.

Erasmus students do not pay tuition fees. Some of the Erasmus students interviewed, had to pay the nominal amount of FF. 60 to cover administration costs.

[1] At universities, the responsible body for admission is the "Commission Pédagogique", of which the members are elected.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

Depending on the parental income, French students may benefit from the national grant system. However, the income-barrier for being eligible for a grant is low and only 22 % of the French students receives a national grant.
Some French banks "offer" loans to students for a reasonable rate of interest (Crédit Lyonnais interest rate around 8%) and propose repayment after four years (at that time a student is supposed to work). The only condition for such a loan is to be registered as a student in "Licence".

French Erasmus students receive the Erasmus grant, which is normally 100 Ecus a month.
In order to control outflow of students geographically, the national Erasmus Committee promotes 'less popular' countries as Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and Greece. Students receive an Erasmus grant of 200 Ecus if they choose one of these countries.
Most of the French Erasmus students receive their grant too late. The budget from the European Community is received by the CNOUS (Centre Nationale des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires)[1], which has to transfer it first to the universities which pay the money to the students. Transferring funds is time-consuming and this is one of the causes of delay. The CNOUS recommends universities to give students an advance payment, but this does not happen. In practice, as not all of the original Erasmus applicants do in fact join the programme, there are always certain funds left. This should be distributed afterwards to students who have already left France. The CNOUS advises universities to distribute this extra money in accordance with the personal financial situation of the students. Universities do not do this, instead they divide the amount equally among the students.
French students receive their Erasmus grant by a cheque in French Francs.

Foreign EC students

France has cultural agreements with more than 100 countries to support foreign students with a grant. In 1989, 7349 students could benefit from a grant from the French Government (Ministry of Foreign affairs and Ministry of Cooperation). About 50% of these students were from the countries Algeria, China, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Indonesia. 280 students among them were from the European Community. Priority is given to post-graduate studies (third cycle; degrees DEA, DESS and doctorate[2]).
The annual amounts which holders of higher education scholarships received in 1988/1989 were between FF 4,212 and FF 14,580, depending on the scholarship concerned.

Foreign Erasmus students in France who received their Erasmus grant in Ecus, notified some problems in converting the money from Ecus into French Francs. Only the "Crédit Lyonnais" bank was able to make the conversion.

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[1] CNOUS/CROUS/CLOUS: Centres Nationales/Régionales/Locales des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires: National and Public Centres, with financial autonomy. Established in 1955 by the Ministry of Education. General goal is to ameliorate the conditions of social life of students. Most important facilities are student restaurants and student homes.

[2] DEA: Diplôme d'études approfondies; DESS: diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Foreign EC and non-EC students who want to stay in France for less than three months, do not need a residence permit. To enter the country, the normal visa regulations are in force.

Foreign EC and non-EC students who want to stay longer than three months, need a residence permit (carte de séjour). For some countries, application for this residence permit can be done in France, for other countries this has to be done at the French embassy in the country of origin.

Students who want to stay for longer than three months in France

EC-citizens (except for Spain and Portugal until 1993), and citizens from Switzerland, Algeria, Vatican City, Andorra and Liechtenstein can apply for a residence permit at the local foreign police office (la préfecture) during the first two months of their stay in France.

Documents required by the "préfecture" are:

- Identity card;
- Proof of sufficient means of support.
  This can be a certificate of a grant (or other financial support), or a letter of financial guarantee from an individual (for example the parents), together with a proof of an existing bank account. The guaranteed amount must be FF. 2,300 per month during the entire period of the permit.
  Foreign EC exchange students within official exchange programmes only have to show the letter in which proof of sufficient means of support is already stated by the guest-university.(all exchange students receive this letter upon enrolment).
- Student card;
- Proof of accommodation.
  In case of private apartments or rooms in a family, this must be accompanied by the original electricity bill.
- Three black-and-white passport photos.

Upon showing all the required documents, the student will receive a "carte de séjour" for one year.

Foreign students from other countries than the ones mentioned above, like Spain and Portugal, who want to stay in France for more than three months, have to apply for a special entry visa "visa long séjour pour études", through the French embassy in their country. This visa can be obtained by proof of "pre-registration" (for écoles: application of inscription) and by proof of sufficient means of support (see above).

Upon arrival in France, they have to register at the "préfecture", which requires from them this "visa long séjour pour études" together with the same documents as mentioned above (instead of an identity card, they have to show a valid passport).

Upon presentation of the required documents, the student will receive a "carte de séjour" for three months. During this three months, he/she has to undergo a medical check at

the international migration office (OIM). Upon proof of medical control, a "carte de séjour" will be issued for one year.
In Paris, certain higher education institutions have arranged some agreements with the local authorities, to centralise this procedures at the CNOUS, so that the students do not have to register at the "Préfecture" individually.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

French students are covered by the Student Social Security System.
Foreign EC and non-EC students are covered by the same system as French students, under the following conditions:

- The country of origin has agreements with France about social security;
  This applies to 55 countries, among them all the countries of the European Community. (E 111 form);
- They must be enrolled at an institution which is allied to the social security system;
- They must be under 26 on October 1 of the current academic year.[1] However, the rights are automatically prolonged until the 27th birthday (even if the student leaves the higher education system in the meantime), but unfortunately many students are not aware of this advantage. Finally, an exception is made for students attending long university courses.

Students pay FF. 700 for the student social security system for one year. However, French students who benefit from a national grant are exempted from social security fees.
The system covers 75% of doctors' and dentists' visits, 60% of medication, 100% of long-stay hospitalisation.
Doctors in France are self-employed and patients can visit the doctor of their choice.

Students are advised to insure themselves with a Students' Mutual Association. This reimburses the percentage which is not covered by the social security system, insurance against civil liability risks (which is compulsory in France) and disability and death insurance. It costs FF. 600 for one year.

Students who do not meet the above mentioned country, institution or age requirements, have to take private insurance at various prices.

[1]Students over 26 cannot be insured by the students' social security scheme. It is not totally clear, if EC students over 26 can benefit from the national social security scheme upon showing the E-111.

9. COST OF LIVING

The minimum cost of living for a student is FF. 3,000-5,000 a month. The CNOUS has made a minimum budget for monthly costs in 1991 in FF.[1]

	Paris	Province
accommodation	610-1800	570-1400
30 breakfasts	300	300
60 meals	630	630
60 drinks	360	360
study costs	300	300
transport	180	180
spare time	350	350
personal care	350	350
Total	3080-4270	3060-3890

Students at institutions which are not allied with the social security scheme, cannot benefit from CNOUS facilities. Therefore they will have to spend more money on accommodation and meals. For this group, the total amount for meals is estimated at FF. 1,200, and for accommodation FF. 1,800, which makes the total of FF. 4,840 in Paris and FF. 4,460 in the provinces.

10. ACCOMMODATION

To find accommodation at a reasonable price is a mammoth problem, for both French and foreign students, especially in the bigger cities. The problem is worst in Paris.

Possibilities for accommodation

Student homes

The CNOUS have 220 student homes ("résidences") in the entire country, which offer 108,000 beds. In Paris, they have 1,493 beds for a student population of 280,000 students. Rents for the rooms vary between FF. 500 and 650 a month.
Twelve to fifteen percent of the rooms in the student residences are occupied by foreign students. Priority is given to students with a grant from the French Government.

HLM

The CROUS also manages HLM apartments. (Habitations à loyer modéré) Prices are about FF. 900 for an apartment for one person and FF. 1,300 for an apartment for two persons.

Foyers

"Foyers" are managed by private (often denominational) organisations and are not only for students, but often only for girls. Prices are about FF. 2,000 for one room only, FF. 2,500 for half board and FF. 3,500 for full board.

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1 "Je vais en France 1991", CNOUS - Centre national des oeuvres universitaire et scolaires.

Family
The CROUS provides students with addresses from families who rent out rooms. Prices are about FF. 1,500-2,000. In the near future, a new law will be in force to abolish the taxes which have to be paid by private people if they have income from renting out a room of the house in which they live.

The CROUS provides students with addresses of families, who give students full board and lodging at a moderate price, (paying guest - "Hôte payant"), or who give students full board and lodging in exchange of a couple of hours work done by the students for the family (family-help - "aide familiale").

Furnished apartments
Rents for a furnished one-room apartment are about FF. 2,000 - FF. 4,000. The rents of apartments with two rooms are from FF. 3,000 onwards.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

There are no general rules concerning academic guidance of students. At universities there is no tutor system for French or for foreign students, for regular, for Erasmus and other exchange students. Ecoles also decide themselves about the way they guide their students. Ecoles guide their students more, because the number of students is smaller.

Social guidance is the responsibility of the CNOUS, CROUS and CLOUS. They have housing facilities, restaurants, sporting facilities, they organise cultural activities, they take care of students' employment etc.
The facilities of the CNOUS and CROUS are open to all students who are registered at higher education institutions which are allied to the social student security system.
Special care is taken of foreign students with a grant from the French Government.

Besides that, there is a large number of students' associations.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Etude comparative des qualifications de fin de scolarité obligatoire et de formation professionnelle en France. Jean Gordon. Institut Européen d'éducation et de politique sociale. September 1989.
- Higher Education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The Student Handbook. 6th edition. 1990.
- Je vais en France 1991. Guide à l'intention des étudiants étrangers. Centre National des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires.
- Vademecum to university reception 1st edition. Council of Europe, Edizioni Futuro, Verona 1989.
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- Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions. Commission of the European Communities, Task-force human recourses, education, training and youth. NARIC.
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- Les Etudes supérieures en France. Formalités d'inscription. Imprimerie Nationale 0 061614 N 86.
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- Paris Graduate School of Management, Groupe ESCP. Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Paris.
- Programme supérieur de management des Grandes Ecoles Françaises Admission to French Management Schools 1990. Centre international d'admission aux études de management. Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Paris. Leaflet.
- Devenez un manager international. HEC Paris - Essec - ESCP Paris - ESC Lyon-Ceram Nice. Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Paris. Leaflet.
- Groupe ESCP Ecole Supérieur de Commerce de Paris. Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Paris. Leaflet.
- Erasmus. Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse. L'ecole Nationale supérieure de Chimie de Toulouse. Dans le reseau d'établissements Européens pour la mobilité des étudiants. Leaflet.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for France

June 11: University of the Provence, Aix-Marseille I. Aix-en-Provence.
- Ms Varnier, International Relations;
- Ms Pezolt, Chef de scolarité des étudiants;
- Ms Haon, Equivalence of foreign diplomas;
- Mr Desorgus, Pedagogic Commission;
- Ms Destenay, English Teacher and Erasmus tutor;
- Ms Haeusser, English Teacher and Erasmus tutor;
- foreign students from Germany, UK, Spain, China and Quebec.

June 12: Ministry of Education, Paris
- Ms Franck, responsable Bureau de l'ingéniérie educative et de l'accueil des étudiants étrangers;
- Ms Renon, European Office Eurydice.

June 13: Centre Nationale des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CNOUS) Paris.
- Ms Melet, responsable Erasmus.

June 14: Ecole supérieur du commerce, Paris.
- Mr Ducaussy, subdirector of the school;
- Mr Dahan, Director of International Affairs.

IRELAND

J.F.M. de Jonge

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

National students

Entry to public higher education in Ireland[1] is by means of a system which combines examination results and course preferences and which is organised on a national basis by the CAO/CAS[2] in conjunction with the universities and other institutions of higher education. Candidates may choose both courses and institutions, exercising choices in order of preference for ten courses from a diploma/certificate list.

The results of their Leaving Certificate examination are converted from grades to points in accordance with a common conversion formula agreed by the participating institutions.[3] Candidates are awarded the highest expressed preference in each list to which their points score entitles them.

The points score for any particular course is a supply/demand function, being determined by the number of places available on the course, the number of candidates applying for these places and their points scores calculated by the appropriate conversion formula. The system adjusts as places are taken up, or declined, and candidates may get higher preference places during second and third round offers. The may accept a new offer, or alternatively retain their original offer. Offers for degree and sub-degree courses are made independently, but a candidate may not hold any more than one place at any particular time. The majority of candidates exercise all choices open to them. Due to the popularity of certain courses, notably medical, paramedical, business and legal studies, they attract far more first preference applications than there are places available and the points threshold for these courses is very high. This leads to a residue of unsatisfied demand though many of the candidates are accommodated on courses for which they had expressed a lower preference.

In overall there would appear to be some shortfall in the number of higher education places, but nothing like as great as that which one might conclude from the apparent level of unsatisfied demand. The principal problem is that of matching the profile of student demand with the supply of places available, this supply being determined by an existing stock of places and by planning considerations of which student demand is only one.

Minimum levels of attainment in the Leaving Certificate examination are set out as mandatory requirements for entry, both to degree level and sub-degree level courses. In the case of degree level a number of passes at Grade C in higher level papers is required

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[1]Public higher education in Ireland is available in universities, colleges of technology, regional technical colleges, colleges of education and other higher education institutions in receipt of State support. Privately funded colleges, of which there are few, operate their own independent entry systems.

[2]CAO/CAS = Central Applications Office / Central Admission Services, Tower House, Eglinton Street, Galway, Ireland.

[3]For the calculation of points in 1992 the following formula will be used.
Higher level papers:
A1(100); A2(90); B1(85); B2(80); B3(75); C1(70); C2(65); C3(60); D1(15); D2(50); D3(45).
Lower level papers:
A1(60); A2(50); B1(45); B2(40); B3(35); C1(30); C2(25); C3(20); D1(15); D2(10); D3(5).
The best six subjects in one Leaving Certificate examination will be counted for computing points. Bonus points for higher level mathematics are given by a number of institutions. Others award bonus points for higher level mathematics and sciences in respect of particular courses.

(typically 2 or 3 depending on the university) as well as a number of passes at Grade D. Degree level candidates would be required to present a minimum of six subjects. In the case of sub-degree level courses passes at Grade D in six subjects, including mathematics and a language, are required. In addition, attainments in specific subjects (e.g. mathematics, sciences, modern languages) are often demanded for entry to particular courses.

A pass in the subject Irish in the Leaving Certificate examination is required of all Irish nationals who wish to enter the colleges of the National University of Ireland with the exception of those who have received a substantial portion of their earlier education outside Ireland. A pass in either English or Irish is a necessary requirement for registration in the other universities and higher education colleges. Supplementary tests, including interviews, obtain for entry to teacher training and to the study of Art. The colleges of education for primary school teachers fill their places by a separate competition, but are presently being included in the CAO procedure.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign EC students who hold an Irish Leaving Certificate are not required to have a pass in Irish and are admitted to higher education by means of the same competitive process which applies in the case of Irish students.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students who have school certificates which would entitle them to entry to higher education in another member state are accepted as satisfying the basic conditions for entry to higher education in Ireland. This is also the case with the European Baccalaureate. The question of whether a place will be awarded on a course for which there is a high degree of competition for places is one which is determined pragmatically by the institution concerned. There is no predetermined and published basis for converting grades attained in foreign EC school leaving examinations into precise equivalences on the scales employed in Ireland.

Foreign EC exchange students

The acceptance of foreign EC exchange students is a matter for the individual higher education institutions. The majority of exchanges result from involvement in the Erasmus programme and the acceptance of exchange students is guaranteed as part of the arrangements made in connection with the programme.
Both higher education institutions visited in Ireland confirm this situation. Exchange of students does take place on the basis of mutual trust. When students are selected by their home institution they are always accepted by the host institution.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Ireland has no specific bilateral agreements relating to academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study. In a series of cultural agreements however, with France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Germany and Italy, educational cooperation is mentioned. In the

cultural agreement with Spain the importance of mutual recognition is mentioned and an undertaking given by the contracting parties to jointly examine the question.
The recognition given to foreign EC school diplomas for entry as a full-time student to higher education in Ireland is dealt with in section 1.
Irish higher education institutions give full recognition to periods of study spent abroad by their own students within the context of an Erasmus exchange. Recognition given to so-called free movers is a matter of the individual institutions.
There are no formal arrangements outside of the ECTS scheme and some ICPs for giving recognition to foreign EC students for higher education studies previously undertaken if they wish to transfer to higher education courses in Ireland. This is a matter for negotiation, between the student and the authorities of the institution to which he/she wishes to transfer.
Ireland has no general system for granting legal recognition to degrees, whether Irish or foreign. Recognition is a matter for employing authorities, professional bodies and, in a number of cases, for legally constituted registration councils. Ireland accedes to and applies the EC directives regarding mutual recognition of qualifications for professional purposes. Degrees of foreign EC institutions may be accepted in Ireland where a degree is a basic requirement for a job. Foreign EC degrees of appropriate type and level are also generally accepted for the purposes of entry to postgraduate studies. The institutions concerned make their individual assessments in these cases.

When talking to foreign students in Ireland about this topic it seems to be a major problem for some and no problem at all for others. Some students relate that their home university did not give them factual information about the courses in their host universities. Choices made as to which courses to follow are not based on the advice of their home institution. Whether or not their choices will lead to a full recognition of the study components by their home-university is totally unknown to these students. There are other cases of students who returned to their home university and did not receive a further grant because of the lack of results. Their study components were fully recognised by the home-university but in their programme some parts fitted in the third and others in the fourth year. Consequently the third year -in terms of the curricula of their home university- was not finished and they did not receive a grant for the following year (for which they already partly had credits).

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Foreign EC transfer students

Application for entry as a full-time student to higher education in Ireland, whether from Irish or foreign EC students, is made in the first instance to the CAO/CAS office. Applicants must submit their applications before February 1st to be eligible for selection for the academic year commencing the following October. An application fee (at present IR£ 17) which is the same for Irish and foreign EC students is payable to the CAO/CAS. When applicants are offered a place they must pay a deposit of approximately half the tuition fee in order to secure the place. The deposit is set off against tuition fees, but a proportion of it is non-returnable in the event of the place not being taken up. Registra-

tion takes place in the institution which the student proposes to attend during the initial days of the first term when an introduction programme is also generally available for new students.

Foreign EC exchange students
For foreign EC exchange students there is no application procedure. Once students are sent by their own higher education institution they are automatically accepted and registered in the host institution. Free movers and those seeking transfer with credit for studies already undertaken must apply directly to the institution concerned.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign EC transfer students
Tuition in Irish higher education institutions is, with a small number of exceptions, entirely through the medium of English. Foreign EC students enrolling in Irish institutions are required to have passed English in their secondary school diploma or have an equivalent qualification in the English language. In some institutions standardised tests are employed to assess the competence of foreign EC students in English.
Free movers and students wishing to transfer to Ireland to complete higher education courses must satisfy the authorities of the institutions concerned that their command of English is sufficient to enable them to proceed with their studies.

Foreign EC exchange students
For foreign EC exchange students coming to Ireland there is obviously a need to have a reasonable knowledge of English too. However, there are no standard examinations for all institutions. Some higher education institutions use standard tests in English for foreign EC exchange students, others have interviews, but mostly all students are accepted for exchange programmes. The host institutions accept students on the basis of mutual trust.

5. TUITION FEES

Tuition fees are chargeable for higher education in Ireland. The fees are the same for Irish and for foreign EC students. Foreign non-EC students are required to pay full cost fees. In the case of universities the level of fees is decided by the individual institutions though fees for similar courses are broadly comparable as between different institutions. The universities derive approximately 30 % of their income from student fees, the bulk of the remainder being by way of State grant. For full-time courses in the universities in 1991 the fees ranged from IR£ 1,300 - 1,900 a year, the higher level of fee relating to courses having higher laboratory and practical content.
The fees charged by colleges of technology and regional technical colleges are recommended by the State Department of Education and are generally lower than those in the universities. The fees for 1991 were in the order of IR£ 700 - 900 for degree level courses and IR£ 450 for sub-degree level courses.

In the case of the universities the balance of tuition fee over and above that paid to the CAO/CAS in order to secure a place generally becomes payable directly to the institution before the following February 1st. Fees in subsequent years of courses are payable directly to the institutions in two equal installments, the first at the beginning of the academic year and the second before the following February 1st.
In the case of degree level courses in the colleges of technology and the regional technical colleges the balance of fee, over and above the deposit paid to retain a place, is payable to the institution of registration. Fees are subsequently payable in one installment at the beginning of each academic year.
In the case of sub-degree level courses, where all foreign EC students are in receipt of support, the deposit paid to retain a place is returned to the student on registration and no fees are payable directly by the student in subsequent years.

Foreign EC students on Erasmus exchange programmes do not have to pay fees. In the case of free floaters and other transfer students outside Erasmus, the payment of fees is a matter for the institutions concerned within the constraint that a foreign EC student cannot be charged differently from what an Irish student would be charged for the same service.

Tuition fees have an important influence on the balance of mobility flows for full higher education courses. The level of fees in Irish universities would constitute a disincentive to inward mobility except in cases where students are supported by their home states for study abroad. A substantial number of Irish students are attracted to institutions in the United Kingdom by the level of fee support available to foreign EC nationals. This trend is reinforced by geographical proximity, absence of a language barrier and a tradition of migration from one country to the other.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students
National students in attendance at higher education courses in Ireland may qualify for assistance under a State operated higher education grants scheme. The scheme is income related, being subject to a means test based on the income of the parents of the student. The assistance can take the form of full or partial remission of tuition fees and the payment of a living allowance.
The maximum living allowance for 1991 is IR£ 561 in the case of an "adjacent" student and IR£ 1,409 in the case of a student attending at a higher education centre more than 15 miles from his/her home. Approximately 30 % of students in universities are in receipt of assistance under the Higher Education Grants Scheme.

Higher Education Grants are available only for the purpose of study in Ireland (including Northern Ireland) and may not be availed of for the purpose of taking a full higher education course abroad, even within the EC. In the case of students who are participating in organised partial study programmes abroad, however, their higher education grants continue to be payable as, technically, they remain registered at a home institution.

Courses at sub-degree level in the regional technical colleges and colleges of technology are supported financially by the Community's European Social Fund. Students on these courses are in receipt of Middle Level Technician Grants which cover the cost of fees and provide maintenance allowances equivalent to those available at the maximum rates of the Higher Education Grants Scheme. There is no means test applied for eligibility for Middle Level Technician Grants.

Under Irish tax law 5 % of the income of parents may be covenanted to a son/daughter over 18 years of age for a fixed period and taxation benefits gained as a result. It is becoming increasingly common for parents to covenant a proportion of their income to children undertaking higher education courses. The tax benefits from covenanting are independent of whether he/she is studying at home or abroad.

Foreign EC students

In general foreign EC students are not eligible for assistance under the Irish Higher Education Grants Scheme. Foreign EC students do, however, qualify for Middle Level Technician Grants. Also the Irish Government offers a number of scholarships specifically of interest to students from other EC member states. Details of these scholarships can be obtained from the responsible authorities in the countries concerned or in Ireland from the Department of Education.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

The entry and residence regulations are based on the EC (aliens) regulations of 1977. Foreign EC students do not require visas for Ireland. All (except UK) students need permission to stay in Ireland. Initial permission will be given at the airport or seaport. After this students have to report to the local Aliens Office and register their residence if staying for more than three months. Students must present their passport, evidence of their college place and proof of sufficient financial means. Permission is not given for more than one academic year at a time.[1]

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

For foreign EC students no additional health insurance is required. All foreign EC students are entitled to receive (almost free) medical care within the public health system. Foreign EC students receive a Hospital Service Card which entitles them to medical care on the basis of IR£ 10 per problem. This service does not include dental and optical treatment. The cost of this service can range up to IR £ 100 per year in individual cases.
Some of the universities have a medical service (doctors, psychologists etc) and students attending this service need pay only for their medicine.

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[1]These regulations can be found in the following document of the Irish council for overseas students: Information for EC-nationals: Irish immigration and residence requirements for students (cf. EC (aliens) regulations 1977).

9. COST OF LIVING

There are no official figures compiled for student cost of living in Ireland. This can vary very widely depending on a number of factors such as the quality of accommodation, the location, and the number of weeks required attendance during the academic year. Living in the capital can be more expensive because rents are generally higher (up to + 30 %).
The Irish Council of Overseas Students gives annual figures in an information brochure on the cost of living in Ireland. Its present estimate is IR£ 3,500 - 4,000 per year exclusive of tuition fees. Some individual higher education institutions also give information about the cost of living.

10. ACCOMMODATION

There are no official national rules concerning student accommodation (national or foreign). Until recently student accommodation was not a major concern of the HE-institutions, and apart from limited hostel accommodation, the majority of students resided off campus at home, in lodgings or in rented rooms. In the last decade there has been a dramatic growth in on-campus student accommodation in the universities and there are now more than 3,000 rooms nationally. At present there is no on-campus accommodation for students in the colleges of technology and the regional technical colleges. While there is no specific governmental policy of financial support for student accommodation, recent developments have had the benefit of tax incentives which are designed to promote the provision of rented accommodation, generally.
The majority of the higher education institutions maintain an accommodation office where rooms and lodgings available to students are registered. If the student accommodation officer finds that these are not up to standard they are removed from the register. There can be problems finding suitable accommodation and students who search for rooms early in the year have a better choice of accommodation.
Foreign students may make use of the accommodation offices in the higher education institutions as a means of securing accommodation. They are eligible to use on-campus accommodation where it is available and some institutions encourage foreign students to use this accommodation, particularly in the early stages of their studies.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

Academic and social guidance for students is the responsibility of the individual higher education institutions. The institutions generally have counselling facilities available through officially appointed counsellors, tutors or directors of studies. Chaplaincy services, covering the major religious denominations are also provided. There is a Students Union in each institution which plays a particularly important role in the provision of social guidance to students. There is also, in each institution, a wide range of student societies or clubs covering intellectual, cultural, sporting and social activities.
Host institution guidance is particularly important for foreign EC exchange students. The arrangements for this guidance is generally the responsibility of the person organising the

exchange. It is provided sometimes through a central coordinating office for exchange students or frequently by assigning the exchange student, in advance, to a particular counsellor or tutor.

General information about entry to higher education courses in Ireland is available through the Central Applications Office. More detailed and specific information is available in the prospectus of the appropriate college.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

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- ICOS: Guide to the cost of living in Ireland (1989).
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- ICOS: Overseas students in Ireland. Policy and practice for the 1990's.
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- Trinity College Dublin: Admission requirements 1991.
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- Trinity College Dublin: Entry levels for 1990.
- Trinity College Dublin: Trinity 400; 1592-1992 Visiting students.
- University of Limerick: Degree courses 1991-92.
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- University of Limerick: Erasmus programme (brochure).
- University of Limerick: Cost of living estimates. Academic Year 1990-1991.
- University of Limerick: Student handbook Plassey village (campus accommodation).
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- University of Limerick: Erasmus guide to Lille.
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- University of Limerick: ECTS Information package 1990-1991, department of business studies.
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- Dineen, Prof D.A.: Europeanisation of Irish Universities. Paper for the 21 annual conference of Irish University administrators Limerick 2-4 april 1991.
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- Glancy, P; Who goes to college, a second national survey of participation in higher education. Dublin 1988.
- Central applications office/Central admission services. CAO/CAS joint handbook 1991.
- The NCEA directory of approved courses in higher education (1989). guide to degree, diploma and certificate courses.
- Getting into college. Mary O'Donnell (1987).
- Education policy in 20th century Ireland, Séamas O Buachalla (1988).
- Innovation in education (newsletter OECD 1990): summery of OECD review of national policies of education. E and F.
- Higher Education in the European community; the student handbook 6th edition; Ireland pag 267-298.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Ireland

April 23: Irish council for Overseas studies. Dublin
- W. Cox; Chief Executive

April 23: University of Dublin; Trinity College
- E. Henigan; Administrator
- Students from Spain, Germany, Belgium and France

April 24: Higher Education Authority. Dublin.
- B. O.Dea; Deputy Secretary
- J. Gyrax
- ?

April 25: Limerick University
- P.A. Cashell; Assistant registrar
- P.L. Colgan; Registrar
- D. Dineen; Department of business studies
- E van IJssel; Erasmus coordinator
- B. Sharkey; Admission officer
- B. Sheehan; Student services officer
- Students from Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands

ITALY

R.M. Mertens

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

Higher education in Italy is structured as follows:

Corsi di Laurea: University course of the long type (4,5 or 6 years), at faculties. The degree is called "Laurea" and the title is "Dottore". There are 46 state-run universities (Università statale and Politecnici) and 9 state-recognised private universities (Università libera).

Diploma Universitario (DU): Short-type university course (2 or 3 years) at faculties. It is equivalent to the first cycle of the Laurea course and the student can switch easily if he wants to continue studying after the Diploma Universitaria.

Scuole Dirette a Fini Speciali (SADFS): Schools for special purposes, affiliated to universities and offering university courses which lead to specific higher professional qualifications. The course takes two or three years including a practical period. At the end of the course students have to pass a state examination to receive the "Diploma di Scuola Diretta a Fini Speciali". There are 140 SADFS.

Istituti Superiori di Educazione Fisica (ISEF): Higher institutions for physical education, which offer a university course for the preparation of teachers of physical education and other professions related to sport. The course lasts for three years and concludes with the "Diploma di Educazione Fisica".

Accademie di Belle Arti: Academies of fine arts. These are non-university courses of 4 years in the field of sculpture, painting, decoration and scenography. Courses conclude with final examination to the "Diploma di Licenza".

Istituti Superiori per le Industrie Artistiche (ISIA): This institute represents an innovation with respect to the more traditional courses of the fine arts academies. The course lasts for four years and the awarded diploma is equal to the Diploma di Licenza.

National students

General entry requirements
To gain admission to higher education, Italian students must have the *Diploma di Maturità*, awarded after five years attendance of upper secondary school. To students who attended a four years upper secondary school course, admission is limited to a certain number of courses only.[1] For these students the possibility exists to take a supplementary one-year integration-course to obtain a diploma equivalent to the 5 years-Maturità diploma.

There are five different Maturità diplomas: classica, scientifica, tecnica, professionale and artistica.

[1]The maturità artistica of 4 years' school attendance permits entrance only to the laurea course of Architecture and to the non-university courses in fine arts.

Limitations

Faculties

Generally, numerus clausus regulations are only in force for the courses medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry and computer science. Universities in Italy are autonomous. The number of places to be distributed is fixed by the university itself by the Faculty Council (il "Consiglio della Facoltà")[1].

Numerus clausus regulations are based on the capacity of the institutions, the ratio teachers: students and the needs of society. A numerus clausus based only on capacity of teachers is called a "numero programmato". This applies to certain newly established courses and some new universities.[2]

Students who apply for a course for which numerus clausus regulations are in force, have to pass a multiple choice entry examination ("concorso"), related to the subject for which they apply. The exam is organised by the "Consiglio della Facoltà" and can differ from one university to another. Besides that, the marks of the Maturità are taken into consideration.

It must be said that universities are in principle free to apply their own selection methods, but this is the most common way of selecting the candidates.

Admission to the private universities is more selective and each private university decides itself about the selection method. The two most famous free universities are LUISS (Liberà Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociale) in Rome and BOCCONI (Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi) in Milano. For both, admission is very selective. Admission at LUISS is granted on the basis of the performance during the last three years of the Maturità and of a series of written aptitude tests. The faculties at LUISS are economics & business administration (310 places), law (260) and political sciences (110). At Bocconi, students have to pass an aptitude test and a general knowledge test.

Scuole Dirette a Fini Speciali

All courses at SDAFS have a numerus clausus. Applicants must pass a written entry examination. Depending on the ratio applicants:available places, marks at the Maturità might be taken into consideration or an interview may be part of the selection method. As these schools are affiliated to universities, the "Consiglio della Facoltà" determines the number of places to be distributed and the selection method.

Istituti Superiori di Educazione Fisica

The number of places available is fixed every year by the Ministry of Universities and Scientific and Technology Research. Admission can be obtained by means of competition, based on the performance at the Maturità and on written and oral entry examinations. Besides that, there are some physical requirements and applicants must be younger than 28.

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[1]Consiglio di Facoltà (Faculty council): body made of by the teaching staff of the faculty and a student representation.

[2]Numero Programmato at recently established universities and courses: Università Basilicata, Roma Torvergata II, Brescia, Molise, Reggio Calabria, Trento and Verona. Engineering and Architecture at the Polytecnico di Torino and Milano, new courses Diplomatic sciences and Food Technology.

Accademie di Belle Arti and ISIA
Students have to pass an entry examination. Students with the Maturità Artistica (4 or 5 years) and students with the Maturità Arte Applicata (5 years) are exempted from this examination.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications
Foreign EC students with an Italian secondary school leaving-certificate are treated like the Italian students with respect to entry requirements and limitations.

Foreign EC transfer students
Foreign EC transfer students who want to enter higher education in Italy, need an upper secondary school leaving-certificate which gives access to university courses in the country were they took their secondary school leaving-certificate.[1] If the country of origin asks additional requirements for certain courses, students have to meet these requirements as well. In Greece, for instance, students have to pass an entry examination to gain access to universities. Since 1989, Greek students must have passed this entry examination to obtain access to Italian universities.

Foreign EC transfer students must pass an Italian language test. Students who apply for a course, for which in their country of origin a numerus clausus regulation is in force have to pass a language and aptitude test related to the chosen subject of study.[2] Language and aptitude tests are called "prove di ammissione". The tests are organised per Faculty of each university, but are held on one and the same day throughout the entire country. Italian students with foreign secondary school qualifications and students who have been awarded a grant by the Italian government, are exempted from this test. Besides that, there is another special group of students which is exempted from the "prove di ammissione", because this group is treated in the same way as Italian nationals.[3]

Foreign EC transfer students who apply for a course for which a numerus clausus is in force in Italy, have to pass the same entry examinations as the Italian students. This examination is called "concorso".

For all fields of study, a quota is in force for admission of foreign students. Each faculty of each university determines the number of places available for admission of foreign students.[4] (generally up to a maximum of 10%). Foreign EC transfer students are included in this quota. If the number of candidates who passed the "prove di ammissione" and/or "concorso" exceeds the number of places available, priority is given to foreign EC transfer students and to students from countries in which the concerned course is not

[1] Article 147 and 332 R.D. of August 31, 1933, no. 1592.

[2] Art.3., law of July 19, 1956, no 901.

[3] Students treated in the same way as Italian nationals: holders of the following upper secondary school diplomas: from border-countries of Italy in which education is mainly in Italian, European Schools as laid down in Law 3/1/1960, no 102 and Law 19/05/1965, no 577; Italian Maturità of 5 years taken in Italy; "Deutsche Schule" in Italy; Liceo francese Chateaubriand in Rome; Liceo espagnole Cervandes; Baccellierato internazionale.

[4] An important reason for the contingent is the wish of almost all foreign students to study in Rome or Florence.

available. In this case, other students have the possibility to be placed at another university in another city.
Special categories of foreign students are not included in the quota. First, obviously the group of students which is treated in the same way as Italian citizens (see note 1). Furthermore students with a grant from the Italian government, foreign EC citizens residing in Italy and recognised refugees and children of diplomats.

Applicants for admission to the "Scuole Dirette a Fini Speciali" do not have to pass a language or aptitude test, but they have to pass the normal entry examination ("concorso") which is needed for all subjects and which applies to all Italian students as well. The same rules apply to the "Istituti Superiori di Educazione Fisica". Foreign EC applicants for studies in art always have to prove their artistic qualifications.

Post-graduate studies
In 1980, the Research Doctorate (Dottorati di Ricerca) was introduced. The number of places is limited and is fixed every year by the Ministry of University and Scientific and Technological Research. A minimum of three and a maximum of ten places per course is distributed yearly. Foreign EC graduates are admitted in addition to the number of places available, provided that they do not take up more than half of that number (50% rule)[1]. Applicants must have a Laurea degree or an equivalent foreign degree. To speed up the administrative procedures, the college of professors running the doctorate may grant official recognition to foreign academic degrees (for the purpose of entrance to the doctorate only). All applicants must pass an entry examination which consists of a written test and an interview. Italian students can receive a grant for the research doctorate, but foreign EC students are not entitled to a grant. The title of "Doctor of Research" (Dottore di Ricerca) is an academic title.

A post-Laurea course can be taken at Specialisation Schools at universities. ("Scuole di Specializzazione"). The course lasts for two to five years including practical stages and concludes with the defense of a written thesis. Attendance of the courses is compulsory. The title is called "Specialista" which is a professional title. Most of the courses are in the field of medical studies.
Admission is open to holders of a university degree or equivalent foreign degree. Admission of candidates is very selective and based on a written entry examination, an interview and previous academic studies. The Ministry of University and Scientific and Technological Research and the Ministry of Health (for medical studies) determine a minimum limit and a maximum limit of places per course. Within these limits, universities can decide about the number of places to distribute. Ten percent of the places is reserved for foreign students. This quota is defined by law.

In 1992, post-doctorate studies will be introduced in Italy.

[1]50% rule: If 6 places are available for Italian students, 3 places will be available for foreign students. Total number of places will be 9.

Foreign EC exchange students

Erasmus students are selected by their home institution to participate and are therefore accepted by the Italian institution.

Free floaters have to apply through the Italian consulate in their country, indicating the institution of their choice. The "Consiglio della Facoltà" of the university will decide about admission. There are many possibilities for free floaters to take "Corsi Singoli" in Italy. These are single courses in particular subjects, especially organised for foreign students. Admission to Corsi Singoli is very "open", the only requirement is to be enrolled at a university institution in the country of origin. Students can at the most take five Corsi Singoli in one academic year and they pay about Lit. 130,000 per course. The students are entitled to take examinations and they receive a certificate at the end of the course.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Foreign EC transfer students

Secondary school diplomas

Italy has signed agreements for cultural cooperation with many foreign countries in order to promote university cooperation. Italy enforces the European Convention of 1953 on the equivalence of diplomas leading to admission to universities and the protocol of 1964 to the European Convention.[1] Furthermore there are decrees with Belgium, France, Germany and Spain about the official recognition of higher secondary school qualifications. Besides that, the International Baccalaureat, the Licenza Liceale Europea from European schools and the diplomas of the German school in Italy, are considered as equivalent to the Italian Maturità classica.

Italy also applies the convention on recognition of diplomas of the Arab states and the European Mediterranean states.

Periods of study

Italy and France have agreements about the official equivalence of the Italian Laurea and the French Maîtrise. (French degree after 4 years of university study).[2]

In all other cases, the university authorities will evaluate periods of study and degrees and they decide about accreditation and recognition.

There are some agreements between Italian universities and French and German universities on this matter.

The accreditation of periods of study in Italy of foreign Erasmus students is a matter of the home institution. Attendance is compulsory for foreign Erasmus students in Italy. Students can receive a certificate which states their results of their study in Italy. Not

[1]Source: Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and f. al qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions. Commission of the European Communities, Task-force human recourses, education, training and youth. NARIC.

[2]The European Convention 1953.

all the students interviewed were sure if their Erasmus exchange period would be recognised by their home institution.
Italian Erasmus students often have problems receiving full recognition of their period of study abroad. Medical and law students encounter most problems as regards recognition. Less problems are observed in natural sciences, because for these courses, only students in the last year of their study participate in Erasmus and they write a part of their thesis in the exchange country.

Foreign EC exchange students
Converting the marks is often a problem. There are conversion tables, based on mathematical models. But the Italian "culture" of "mark-giving" differs a lot from other countries. The maximum number of points in Italy is 30, and it is not an extreme exception for a very good student to receive 30 points with indication "cum lauda". In most countries, however, this is just a theoretical case.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Foreign EC transfer students
Foreign EC transfer students have to have ratified their secondary school qualifications and apply for a pre-registration through the Italian consulate in their country. This must be done between April and May for universities and before July 31 for other schools. On the application form, they have to indicate four alternative institutions.
Together with the application form, students have to present following documents:

- Original copy of the secondary school diploma, together with a certified translation in Italian. The ratification will be done by the consulate.
- Two passport photos.
- Foreign non-EC students have to give a proof of sufficient financial means, by a "credit letter" from a bank, which states financial means of Lit. 800,000 per month until december. Foreign EC students do not have to give proof of financial means.
- Proof of social security. This can be an insurance policy or, in the case of foreign EC students, the form E 111.

After ratification of the secondary school diploma is done and above-mentioned documents are available, foreign EC students receive a declaration from the consulate which states that they can participate in the admission tests and/or entry examinations for courses at Italian institutions of higher education. In addition to this, foreign non-EC students also have to have a visa to enter the country. Students have to declare that, in the event that they fail the admission tests and/or entry examinations, they will return to their country.
The above-mentioned documents will be sent to the university of first choice in the case of foreign EC students, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the case of foreign non-EC students.
With the declaration of the consulate (and, if needed, the visa) students can come to Italy to take the "prove di ammissione" (language and aptitude test for foreigners) and "il concorso" (entry examination in case of a numerus clausus) at the institution of their first choice. All the examinations take place in September.

Foreign EC exchange students

Erasmus students *register* at the exchange institution with a letter from their home institution which states that they are enrolled and participate in the Erasmus programme, with two passport photos and with an E 111 form or a health insurance policy.
The exchange institution issues a form, stating that they are Erasmus students. With this form, their passport and the E 111 form or health insurance policy, students can receive a residence permit at the "questura" for the period of exchange.
After receiving the residence permit, Erasmus students can officially *enroi* at the institution, which entitles them to benefit from students' facilities, such as the restaurants and university halls of residence.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Italian law does not foresee that lectures and courses are given in foreign languages. All courses are in Italian, without exception.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students have to pass a language test before they can be admitted to an Italian university. However, for admission to the SADFS, ISEF and art schools they do not have to pass a language test. They have to take the same entry examinations like the Italians. If their language knowledge is not sufficient, they will never be able to pass this exam.

Foreign EC exchange students

Erasmus students do not have to pass a test, but they are expected to have a good knowledge of the Italian language; their home institutions are also expected to select their students on this basis.
Free floaters for "Corsi Singoli" have to demonstrate (by conversation) that they have a fair command of "every-day"-Italian.

Several institutions have a language and cultural centre, which offers language courses to foreign students at moderate prices. These include the "Università di Stranieri" in Perugia and the "Scuola di lingua e cultura italiana per stranieri" in Sienna.
The university La Sapienza in Rome does not organise language courses. Students have to take private courses which may cost Lit. 400,000. For Erasmus students these courses are generally paid by the ICP (Inter-university Cooperation Programme).

5. TUITION FEES

Tuition fees are determined by the institutions and can differ from one institution to another. The average tuition fee at state-run universities is Lit. 400,000 for the first year. From the second year onwards, fees become about Lit. 50,000 cheaper. Of the institutions

which were visited, the university of Florence with a fee of Lit 350,000[1] is less expensive than La Sapienza in Rome, at Lit 400,000. The fees consist of many different parts and can differ only marginally from student to student, depending on his or her study programme. Fees also differ from subject to subject because varying fees for the use of libraries and laboratories. Fees can be paid in two installments.
Fees are the same for both foreign EC and Italian students.
In Florence, foreign EC free floaters who take "corsi singoli" pay Lit 130,000 per year per course and in Rome Lit. 100,000. Erasmus students do not pay any fee.
Low budget students with a grant can apply for waving of the fees (see § 1.3).

Fees at private institutions are very high and based on the family income. Tuition fees at the LUISS university in Rome for 1990/91 were determined as follows:

Annual family income	Annual fee LUISS
up to Lit 33,000,000	1,920,000
up to Lit.55,000,000	3,870,000
up to Lit.80,000,000	5,640,000
over Lit.80,000,000	7,050,000

Fees can be paid in three equal installments.
A second child from the same family pays only 75% of the fee. Fees are the same for all years of the course.
Fees for Corsi Singoli are Lit. 500,000 per course per year.
Erasmus students do not pay any tuition fees.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students
The Italian grant system is not nationally regulated. The responsible body is the "Ente per il Diritto allo Studio" which is a regional governmental authority, in charge of financial and social assistance to students. Granting students depends on the family income, the study results of the student and the distance from the student's residence to the place of institution. However, the income barrier is very low and only 20 % of the students receive any kind of a grant, while less than 5% receive a full grant. The minimum grant is Lit. 250,000 a year and the maximum grant Lit. 3,000,000 a year. Apart from this, low-budget students with good study results can apply for exemption from the tuition fees.
Research doctorate students do not receive a salary, but they are awarded a grant of Lit. 15,000,000 a year (if they do not have any other source of income).

There are many foundations and private initiatives through which Italian students might receive a grant for particular subjects to study abroad.

Erasmus students receive the Erasmus grant the level of which varies per guest country.

[1]Source: Università degli Studi di Firenze. Tasse, Sopratasse e contributi. A.A. 1990/91.

Foreign EC students

Up until now, there has been no possibility for foreign students to receive a grant from the "Ente per il Diritto allo Studio". Parliament, however is preparing a new law at the moment, by which this might be possible in the future.

By means of bilateral agreements and interuniversity cooperation, foreign EC students might receive a grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most of these agreements are reciprocal and grants are reserved mostly for post-graduate studies and for highly qualified and well-selected students.

Foreign research doctorate students are not entitled to the Italian research grant.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

(see also § 1.3)

Foreign transfer students

Upon application at the Italian consulate in the students' home country, foreign EC transfer students receive a declaration from the consulate enabling them to enter Italy and take the admission and entry examinations. Foreign non-EC students also have to have a visa to enter the country. To receive the consulate's declaration, students have to present following documents:

- all documents mentioned in 3. application and registration
- passport

Within eight days of entering Italy, all foreign students have to present themselves at the local aliens police office ("questura"). Upon the consulate's declaration, they receive a residence permit ("permesso di soggiorno") valid until December 31. Foreign EC students who passed the admission tests and/or entry-examinations can enrol at an institution. Upon proof of enrolment at an institution, they receive a residence permit from the "questura" for the entire academic year.

Foreign EC exchange students

Erasmus students *register* at the exchange institution with a letter from their home institution which states that they are enrolled and participate in the Erasmus programme, with two passport photos and with an E 111 form or a health insurance policy.

The exchange institution issues a form stating that they are Erasmus students. With this form, their passport and E 111 form or a health insurance policy, students can receive a residence permit at the "questura" for the period of exchange.

The residence permit is needed for official *enrolment* at the university.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Foreign EC students can benefit from the Italian national public health insurance scheme, if they are insured in their home country. This can be proved by the E 111 form or by a health insurance policy from the country of origin, ratified by the Italian consulate. Foreign EC students who do not have an insurance ratified by the Italian consulate, can take an insurance for Lit. 110,000 a year or Lit. 55,000 for a shorter period.

The public health scheme in Italy covers doctor and dentist, visits from doctors allied to the system, hospitalisation in state hospitals and medicines.

9. COST OF LIVING

There is no official indication of the cost of living for students in Italy. Neither the central government, nor the "Ente per il Diritto allo Studio", nor the institutions advise students about cost of living. Estimates are made, which state that the minimum cost of living is about Lit. 800,000 to 1000,000 monthly, depending on the area. (Florence and Milano are the most expensive cities).

An estimated minimum monthly budget can be divided as follows:[1]

Lit.	400,000	accommodation (private room)
Lit.	250,000	meals in student restaurants
Lit.	40,000	breakfasts
Lit.	40,000	books
Lit.	30,000	transport
Lit.	40,000	leisure expenses

Foreign EC students pay reduced tariffs for local transport, cinema and theatre. Besides that they can eat in the various student restaurants ("mensa").
Transport reduction, however, is not available for foreign EC exchange students.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Student halls of residence are administered by the "Ente per il Diritto allo Studio" (i.e. Regional governmental body, in charge of financial and social assistance to students). There are 25,000 rooms available in halls of residence in Italy, which is a provision rate of less than 2%. (80-90% of the Italian students stay with their parents while studying). Allocation of rooms is dependent on criteria of need. Priority is given to students with public grants and students with a low parental income (but still too high for a grant).
In addition to student residences, private organisations like the Church and other foundations offer student accommodation.
1,000 rooms are reserved for foreign students, who suffer particularly from the shortage of student accommodation.
Efforts are made to solve housing problems for Erasmus students; in order to be able to provide rooms for Erasmus students, the university La Sapienza in Rome has signed a convention with the Student and Youth Tourist Centre (Centro Turistico Studentesco e Giovanile -CTS). The convention states that the CTS provides rooms in small hotels to Erasmus students.
The university of Florence has signed contracts with Hotel Astor and with a housing

[1] Vademecum to university reception 1st edition. Italy, Vaticano, San Marino. Council of Europe, Edizioni Futuro, Verona 1989.

cooperative (Housing International & Travels) for renting rooms for Erasmus students. Erasmus students pay Lit. 180,000 a month for these rooms, the university pays the rest.
Rooms in the student residences cost Lit 180,000.
The price of a room in a private family is about Lit. 400,000 monthly, a private apartment for two persons costs about Lit. 1000,000.
The LUISS university has a student residence hall with 300 rooms. The price of a room is Lit. 420,000 a month.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

There are no rules concerning guidance of students at Italian institutions. Students have to consult their professor on academic matters. The university La Sapienza, for example, has started this year with a tutor system for the faculty of law. The university of Florence has one representative per faculty who is in charge for information on academic matters.
At the "Ente per il Diritto dello Studio" and the "segretaria studenti stranieri" (the international office of the university) students can obtain information on university and student life.
Besides that, different student associations take care of social life of students.

LUISS university has a tutor system for academic guidance of Erasmus students and local students can become a mentor for social guidance of Erasmus students. Also a room is provided upon arrival for Erasmus students.

Students who want to study in Italy can apply for general information at the "Centro d'Informazione sulla Mobilità e le Equivalenze Accademiche" (CIMEA) in Rome.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

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- UniversItalia 4; Dottorati di Ricerca; Scuole di Specializzazione.
  CIMEA - Centro d'informazione sulla Mobilità e le Equivalenze Accademiche. Fondazione RUI.
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  - Tabella Conversione voti;
  - Contingente numerico posti disponibili per ammissione studenti stranieri anno accademico 1991/92.
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- LUISS Liberà Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociale:
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APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Italy

May 14: Ministry of Universities, Scientific Research and Technology, Unit for international relations, Unit V, NGAA; Rome.
- Ms Dr Antonella Cammisa.

May 14: Luiss University (Libera Università Internazionale degli studi Sociali); Rome.
- Prof.ssa Maria Sticchi Damiani, Coordinator International Programmes.
- Ms Anna Maria Ricciardi, International Office.
- Ms Dr Roberta Lacava, general admission.

May 15: Università degli studi di Roma "La Sapienza".
- Dr.ssa Mirella Castriota (head of the bureau of International Affairs).
- Sig.ra Bruna Caronti Vinci (member of exchange commission).
- Dr.ssa Margarita Cavallo (general admission).
- Professors and Teachers of the faculties of Mathematics, Engeneering, Architecture and Law.
- Prof. Paolo Pozzilli, Coordinator of the Erasmusprogramme for Medicine.
- Foreign students from Germany and an Italian student with French secondary school qualifications.

May 16: Università degli studi di Firenze
- Dr. Mario Degli Innocenti, Head of the International Office.
- Ms Rita Russo, administration International Office.
- Prof Attilio Monasta, European Relations.
- foreign students from Germany and the Netherlands and Italian students who studied in Germany and Belgium.

LUXEMBOURG

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

Compared to other countries in the European Community the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg presents a special case. It is the smallest member state of the Community and a very large proportion of its population consists of foreigners (27%).
The most striking feature about Luxembourg higher education institutions is the fact that they came into existence only recently or even very recently. Today there are four institutions of higher education in Luxembourg:

- the Centre Universitaire, founded in 1969, offering a first year of university education in human and natural sciences, a two year higher education programme (cycle court) in economics, computer science, banking and insurance based on a French model and two post-university training programmes.
- the Institut Supérieur de Technologie, founded in 1979.
- the Institut Supérieur d'Etudes et des Recherches Pédagogiques (1983).
- the Institut d'Etudes Educatives et Sociales.

The size of the institutions is very modest due to their late development and the small size of the country itself.
The Luxembourg higher education system for obvious reasons does not attract many foreign students, though recent developments will perhaps increase their number in the near future. Luxembourg is participating in some Erasmus ICPs. Furthermore, bilateral exchanges with the USSR and probably also other Eastern European countries are planned. Furthermore Luxembourg wants to expand its higher education system. The Ministry is planning to offer a two year university course. This way students will have the opportunity to complete a first cycle of university studies in Luxembourg. This will attract more foreigners and will also make negociations concerning equivalence and reciprocity easier. Finally the government wants new disciplines in the cycles courts and more activities in the post-university sector.

National students

In Luxembourg there are two systems of secondary education, the "normal" secondary education, leading to the "diplôme de fin d'études secondaires" and the secondary technical education. Depending on the choice made and the courses followed, the technical education can offer three degree possibilities:

1. CATP, mixed education and training (12 years)
2. "diplôme de technicien" (13 years)
3. "diplôme de fin d'études secondaires techniques" (13 years)

The "diplôme de fin d'études secondaires" and the "diplôme de fin d'études secondaires techniques" give access to higher education. The "diplôme de technicien" can give access to the higher technical studies at the Institut Supérieur de Technologie. Before being admitted, the applicants do not have to pass any entry examinations. Luxembourg does not have a system of personal interviews.
The only higher education institution in Luxembourg with numerus clausus regulations is the Institut Supérieur d'Etudes et des Recherches Pédagogiques (ISERP), that trains future primary schoolteachers. The number of students at the ISERP is limited, because of the limited demand for schoolteachers in the country. The students are selected on

secondary school results, by means of a so-called T-score (based on the standard deviation). In future (1992/1993) applicants will also be selected by means of an interview and a "dossier" containing their motivation.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign nationals with a Luxembourg school leaving-certificate are treated as national students.

Foreign EC transfer students

Traditionally foreign students are also treated exactly the same as national students in Luxembourg. They only need a certificate giving access to higher education in their home country, equivalent to the Luxembourg school leaving-certificate. Foreign EC transfer students do not have to pass any entry examinations or personal interviews. This might change in future, if the courses become over-subscribed.

Foreign EC exchange students

All foreign EC exchange students in Luxembourg come within the framework of the Erasmus programme. The entry requirements that have to be met by Erasmus students, are determined by the home institution in consultation with the other members of the ICP concerned.

In general it is not very difficult for a foreign EC student to gain access to the higher education system in Luxembourg. Luxembourg students wanting to study in other EC member states on the other hand, encounter many difficulties. France for example only accepts one out of every five Luxembourg applicants in its second year of university studies.
Furthermore secondary school education in Luxembourg is of a very high level: the pupils have to learn three languages and the teachers do not give high marks. This leads to the situation that Luxembourg students have low results compared to students from other EC countries. It will thus be difficult for Luxembourg students to compete with for example German students in the entry examinations for the numerus clausus studies in Germany. This competition will start in 1991, when the German government abolishes the 6% quota for foreign EC students.[1]
There are also some problems concerning the information on the higher education systems of the other member states available in Luxembourg. This year for example, the Luxembourg government was not informed by the German "Zentralstelle für die Vergabe von Studienplätze" (ZVS) about the dates of the entry examinations for the numerus clausus study of medicine.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Luxembourg has concluded cultural agreements with several European Community member states, applies the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas Leading to

[1]For further information see the country report on Germany.

Admission to Universities and recognises the European Baccalaureate. Due to the fact that the Centre Universitaire in Luxembourg mainly offers first year courses in university education, academic recognition of final university qualifications from abroad is not applicable in this country. However, for professional purposes, university and non-university higher education final qualifications from other member states are widely recognised by Luxembourg.

Luxembourg has made about one hundred bilateral agreements with several countries on a national or institutional level. These agreements concern mainly the outflow of Luxembourg students. The contracts are very important for Luxembourg, because its students have to go abroad to finish a university course. Most agreements concern higher education institutions in the EC member states France, Belgium, Germany, the UK and Italy, and in Switzerland and Austria.[1]

Foreign EC-students, who followed the first year of a university course in Luxembourg, have to go to a third country if they want to continue studying abroad. This means that they again have to get an equivalence.

In Luxembourg recognition of certificates is dealt with by the Ministry of Education. As a rule equivalence can only be given if the home country of the foreign student is a member of the European Council and has signed the Convention of Paris (1953).

The large Portuguese population in Luxembourg (10% of the total population) forms a special problem. If Portuguese students, resident in Luxembourg and having a Luxembourg school leaving-certificate and one year of Luxembourg university study, want to go abroad, there are great difficulties. In reaction to the Gravier case, Belgium for example adopted a law in October 1987, prescribing that students from EC member states, who want to study in Belgium, have to proof that they are admitted to the same course in their country of origin.[2] In 1988 the University of Liège for example wrote to the Centre Universitaire in Luxembourg: "**Il leur** [EC residents of Luxembourg] **est demandé, quelles que soient les études réalisées antérieurement, de faire la preuve qu'ils sont admis, dans leur pays** [country of origin], **à des études identiques à celles qu'ils souhaitent poursuivre en Belgique**".[3] For the Portuguese residents in Luxembourg this means that their Luxembourg certificates are not enough. They have to get these certificates ratified in Portugal. This is very difficult and takes a lot of time. At the moment the Centre Universitaire is trying to find a practical solution for this problem with individual higher education institutions in Belgium.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Due to the very limited number of foreign EC students in Luxembourg, the country does not have any formal regulations or procedures concerning application and registration.

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[1] Equivalences pour les cours universitaires (Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg 1990).

[2] Moniteur Belge, 16-04-1987.

[3] Letter of the Université de Liège, Service des Etudes (09-08-1988) to the Centre Universitaire in Luxembourg.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students have to send their application to the relevant institution before the first of September. They do not have to give any financial guarantees. We spoke with two Greek students, who did not pass the entry examinations for philosophy in their home country and therefore came to Luxembourg to study. Before being admitted to the Centre Universitaire, they had to show a French translation of their Greek baccalaureate and the results of their Greek entry examination. The equivalence was dealt with by the Ministry of Education.

Foreign EC exchange students

The application and registration of Erasmus students is done by the responsable ICP-coordinators.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Luxembourg is a multilingual country, where French, German and of course Luxembourg is spoken. Foreign students do not have to meet any official language requirements. Although there are no compulsory proficiency tests, a good knowledge of French is needed. The courses at the Centre Universitaire are all in French. The Institut Supérieur de Technologie offers courses in French and German.
Language courses in German, French, English and Luxembourg are offered by the Centre de Langues. Students have to pay a small amount for these lessons.

5. TUITION FEES

In Luxembourg students do not pay tuition fees.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

Luxembourg students can receive financial aid. The average student receives between FLUX 260,000 and 300,000 a year if he studies abroad and about two thirds of this amount, if he studies in Luxembourg. The total sum is made up of three different parts: a grant, an interest-free loan and a loan with interest. The amount of money a student receives and the relative importance of the different parts depend on the parental income and the number of children in the family. In the near future the interest-free loan will probably be abolished. At the same time interest rates for students will be lowered from 8.25% to 2-2.5%. If the tuition fees abroad amount to more than FLUX 5,000 a year, the student receives this money on top of his scholarship.

Foreign EC students

Recently foreign students, resident in Luxembourg and holders of a Luxembourg "diplôme de fin d'études secondaires", receive the same financial aid as the national students. Up

until now Luxembourg does not have grants for foreign students. The Ministry is working on this.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Foreign EC students need a temporary residence permit, if they plan to stay in Luxembourg for a period of less than one year. The application for this permit has to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice. Officially the application must include proof of the student's financial means. But according to the authorities we interviewed, EC-nationals do not have to give any financial guarantees. The Greek students we interviewed, did not make any arrangements at all.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is not compulsory in Luxembourg. Foreign students coming from EC member states can take the insurance of their home country with them to Luxembourg by means of an E 111 form.
If the student does not have an insurance in his home country, he can apply for a private insurance in Luxembourg. However this cannot be done during the first 90 days of his stay in Luxembourg.[1]

9. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Luxembourg for a student is about FLUX 20,000 a month.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation constitutes a major problem. The number of rooms in the halls of residence is too limited and renting a room on the private market is very expensive and difficult to find. A room in a hall of residence costs approximately FLUX 2,500 a month. For a private room a student will pay five times as much.
The Centre Universitaire plans to build new on-campus accommodation facilities for its students.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

No special arrangements are made for foreign EC students concerning their academic and social guidance. Like national students they can go to the "Centre de Psychologie et d'Orientations Scolaires"(social service) in the event of problems. The students enjoy

[1] Letter of the Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale, 21-04-1989.

reductions on meals and public transport and are free to use on campus facilities (sports, restaurant etc.).
The small-scale university automatically guarantees a good and personal academic guidance by the professors.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

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- Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg: Législation.
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- Centre de Recherche Public-Centre Universitaire.
- Equivalences pour les cours universitaires (Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg 1990).

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Luxembourg

April 30: Ministère de l'Education Nationale
- Mr. Ernest Weis

April 30: Ministère de l'Education Nationale, Agence Erasmus
- Mr. Camille Kieffer

May 2: Centre Universitaire
- Mr. P. Seck; president
- Mr. J.P. Harpes; administrator of humanities and social studies
- foreign students from Greece

THE NETHERLANDS

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

In the Netherlands there is a long tradition of academic freedom and autonomy for the institutions of higher education. These assume responsibility for the content of the degree programmes and for research policy. As regards national policy, the Ministry of Education and Science plays an important role.
In the higher education sector in the Netherlands there are two types of higher education institutions: universities and careers-orientated higher education institutions. Both sectors exist parallel to each other. Students at universities receive training which is orientated towards the independent practice of scientific-academic work. The teaching at the non-university institutions is of a practical nature and relates directly to future vocational activities.
A full university course in the Netherlands takes at least four years and involves two examinations: the first or preliminary examination at the end of the first year, and the final examination at the end of the fourth year. Students are allowed two extra years to complete the course. The first examination must be passed by the end of the second year, and the final examination within a total of six years. After this time, one may not be registered as a regular student in any field at any Dutch institution of higher education. Exceptions are made, but rarely.

The year 1989 was a year in which Dutch policy-makers devoted a great deal of attention to the internationalisation of society, including education. The catalyst for this activity was the approaching completion of the European Community's internal market.
In 1989/1990 about 350,000 students were enrolled in the higher education institutions. Two percent (7,000) of them were foreign students, half of these coming from the member states of the European Community. In 1989 the number of Dutch students that received a grant for a study period at a foreign university amounted to a total of 3,020.
The number of foreign students coming to study in the Netherlands is relatively low, due to a number of factors:

- education is conducted in the Dutch language which tends to form a linguistic barrier to foreign students;
- the Dutch system of higher education is unfamiliar and its degrees and titles are relatively unknown;
- there are few possibilities for foreign students to obtain scholarships;
- the universities and institutes have no direct financial interest in recruiting foreign students;
- the system of post-degree programmes is not yet well developed[1].

National students

Universities are open to national students who:

- hold a pre-university school diploma (VWO). Depending on the course chosen, requirements may be set regarding the subjects taken in the school-leaving examination. The length of this path, after leaving primary school, varies from six to nine years;

[1]OECD seminar on higher education and the flow of foreign students. Country report: The Netherlands (Hannover 1990).

- have passed a HBO propaedeutic examination. The universities may set the same requirements regarding subjects as apply to pre-university school leavers. This path lasts from six years to nine years;
- have passed a colloquium doctum examination. Anyone who has reached the age of 21 but does not possess the requisite qualifications for university entrance, may take an entrance examination appropriate to the course of his choice;
- hold an Open University diploma. Those who have been awarded an Open University diploma or have already followed an university degree course have the right to admission to any course.

Non-university higher education institutions are open to national students who:
- hold a diploma of senior general secondary education (HAVO). This path lasts from five years to six years;
- hold a diploma of pre-university education (VWO);
- hold a diploma of senior vocational education. This path lasts from seven to nine years;
- passed a colloquium doctum examination.

Every student who meets one of these conditions has the right to be admitted. In some cases this right is limited by a numerus clausus. This numerus clausus can be based on the teaching capacity of the institutes or on the labour market situation (dentistry). If the application of a numerus clausus is approved by the minister, the students are selected by lot. The draw is weighted in favour of those with the highest average marks in the school-leaving examination.
For the academic year 1991/1992 there are numerus clausus procedures for thirteen subject areas:

business administration, technical business administration, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, medical biology, industrial design, politics and management health welfare, general health welfare, Japanese studies, Roman languages and cultures, air and space technology, natural sciences.

The Dutch numerus clausus system is presently creating problems in Belgium. In 1991/1992 244 Dutch students enrolled in Flanders for studies in medicine and veterinary medicine, after having been turned down at Dutch universities. Although this is legally valid, the extra costs for the Belgian Minister of Education amounts to HFL 2,500,000.

Dutch students do not have to pass any entry examinations or personal interviews.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications
With respect to entry requirements and limitations, foreigners resident in the Netherlands and holding a Dutch school leaving-certificate, are treated like national students.

Foreign EC transfer students
The Dutch higher education system has special entry requirements for foreign EC transfer

students, who want to follow and complete a full course or part of a course in the Netherlands.

The prior education of an EC transfer student wanting access to higher education in the Netherlands, must meet several requirements. The first is a general requirement, and others are specific to the field of study. The general requirement for admission to a university course of study is possession of a diploma from the pre-university programme of a Dutch secondary school, or its equivalent. This diploma makes a future student eligible to attend lectures. Permission to sit examinations, however, may require proven mastery in certain subjects, depending on the field. If this was not obtained at the prescribed level in secondary school, the university will administer qualifying tests in the subjects in question. Because pre-university education differs in different countries, foreign students are often required to sit these qualifying tests. Information about requirements can be obtained from the universities.

For example, foreign EC transfer students wanting admission to the Delft University of Technology, should have at least passed matriculation or any other diploma which allows admission to a state university of technology in their own country. Furthermore, entrance examinations in the Dutch language, mathematics and physics must be passed.[1]

The starting level of Dutch university education corresponds to that in the other countries of Western Europe. The Netherlands has no special institutions where foreign students can prepare themselves for university entrance if they do not already have the required level of prior education. Several years of university study outside the Netherlands can be grounds for exemption from one or more parts of the Dutch university curriculum. But the starting level is high and in general such exemption is hard to obtain.

The non-university institutions require no entry examinations. Some art schools do, however, require that applicants be tested in their chosen artistic speciality.

The Dutch numerus clausus regulations apply to foreign EC transfer students who want to start in the first year of a course. The very popular courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science always have special quotas for foreign students. The number of places available to first year students is very small. Admission at a later stage is virtually impossible.[2]

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students coming from other member states of the European Community do not have to pass any entry examinations or personal interviews before being admitted to the Dutch higher education system. The numerus clausus regulations do not apply to them, because short term exchanges are not open to first year students.

Exchange students coming within the framework of an EC-programme are selected by the home institution on the basis of study results and social proficiency.

Exchange within the framework of bilateral cultural agreements takes place after double selection by the home and the host institution. In theory these bilateral exchanges are open to students at universities and non-university institutions. But, due to this system of double selection, in practice only advanced or graduated university students use these

[1]Studying at Delft University of Technology. Practical information on admission procedures (1991).

[2]Studying at a university in Holland. Should you? (NUFFIC).

exchange funds. The Dutch students are selected by the NUFFIC (Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education).

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

The Netherlands applies the Council of Europe convention regarding admission to universities and recognises the European Baccalaureate and the International Baccalaureate. Furthermore, the Belgian diploma of "Maatschappelijk Assistent" is regarded as equivalent to the Dutch "Getuigschrift" of a "Pedagogische Hogeschool" for the purposes of admission to a university.
Recognition of periods of study at a foreign university and of foreign certificates can be granted by the higher education institutions themselves. In such cases academic deans may call on NUFFIC, as the Dutch centre for equivalence, to help them decide how these credentials should be valued. NUFFIC makes a recommendation which the institution is free to accept or not. The evaluations do not have an official, binding status.
Recognition of German certificates is granted on the basis of a bilateral agreement with Germany. Recognition of Belgian certificates is through a unilateral Ministerial decree. There is a complex and complete system of equivalences between Dutch and Belgian university examinations.

In theory the recognition of credit points has been taken care of in the official EC exchange programmes. Before leaving, the students are certain that the credit points they collect abroad will be recognised at home. If it concerns exchanges through bilateral cultural agreements, then the student has to arrange all of this on his own initiative. However, in practice there seem to be some problems. At Leiden University individual professors often do not recognise their students' foreign credit points completely. The foreign students we spoke with in the Netherlands also stated that they were uncertain whether their Dutch credit points would be recognised by their home institutions.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

Foreign EC transfer students
The academic year starts on September 1. Prospective foreign EC transfer students must contact their university of choice well in advance, since they must first obtain written permission to sit university examinations. Without the appropriate Dutch secondary school diploma or one of the other European diplomas recognised as its equivalent, this permission requires a separate declaration from the university's executive board saying that all requirements have been met. Usually this will mean that the applicant must have passed a Dutch language test, plus tests in prerequisite subjects. General requirements are outlined in the Dutch University Education Act, but specific requirements are set by faculty boards of examiners. This is why only the university can provide complete information about admission requirements. And since this whole procedure is time-consuming, it is best to contact the university at least one year in advance.
The application should include the following documents:

- authorised copies of school leaving-certificates, degrees and transcripts;
- a complete description of the applicant's past education;
- personal information.

The document granting permission to sit examinations must reach the Central Student Placement Office ("Centraal Bureau Aanmelding en Plaatsing" CBAP) of the Dutch Ministry of Education and Science by mid-August of the year the student wishes to start. Officially, students apply to study a particular field. The CBAP places them at a university. It is therefore impossible to improve one's chances of acceptance by applying to more than one university.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC students coming to the Netherlands within the framework of short-term exchange programmes are not officially registered in the Netherlands, because they remain registered at their home institution. The application and registration procedure for Erasmus students is simple. For example, an Erasmus student wanting to study at Leiden University has to complete an English application form three to six months in advance. He also has to send a copy of his passport, his student card and two photographs. After that he receives a temporary proof of registration, which will later be made definitive.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign EC students registered at non-university higher education institutions in the Netherlands need a good knowledge of the Dutch language, but they do not have to pass a proficiency test.

A Dutch language examination is however required for admission to studies at Dutch universities, in case the student intends to obtain a Dutch degree. It takes approximately one year of intensive language training before a person reaches the level of mastery required for university study. The requirements for the language tests and their dates can be obtained from the universities themselves, which should be contacted well in advance of the desired enrollment date. Because study in most fields requires reading literature in languages other than Dutch, passive knowledge of at least two more languages is also essential.

The Dutch higher education institutions offer a small number of courses in English. Furthermore, there are a lot of Dutch language courses available to foreign students, both at the universities and other institutions offering Dutch summer courses. The Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University even developed a study kit for foreign students who want to learn Dutch in their home country. The kit consists of a book (FL 28,50) and cassettes which can be borrowed (FL 60.00). The costs of language courses at Dutch universities vary between FL 200 and FL 400.[1]

[1]Detailed information on programmes and costs are to be found in the NUFFIC brochure: Dutch language courses for foreign students, 1990/1991.

5. TUITION FEES

Students at Dutch higher education institutions have to pay tuition fees. A student registered at a university is required to pay FL 1750 a year. At non-university higher education institutions the tuition fees amount to a maximum of FL 1500 a year.
These same tuition fees also have to be paid by foreign EC transfer students. Foreign EC exchange students within the Erasmus programme do not pay any fees at all. Foreign EC exchange students who come within the framework of bilateral cultural agreements, sometimes do have to pay fees. But in most cases these fees will be repaid within the grant they receive.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

The Netherlands have a national grent system. Every registered Dutch student is entitled during five years to a monthly grant, the socalled "basis-beurs", which is not means tested and does not have to be reimbursed to the State. Depending on parental income, the student can apply for a supplementary grant which is partly free of interest. This part of the grant has to be paid back. As stated earlier, Dutch students are however entitled to enroll at a higher education institution for six years. In case they need the additional time to complete their studies, students can finance it by applying for an interest bearing loan.[1]
Dutch students wanting to study abroad can apply for different grants. The most important ones are:

- grants in the framework of official EC programmes;
- grants in the framework of STIR ("Stimuleringsprogramma voor internationalisering van het hoger onderwijs"). This is a programme started by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Science in 1988/1989 to promote the internationalisation of higher education. STIR-grants are available for study abroad, provided that financing through COMETT, LINGUA or ERASMUS is not possible. For students at non-university institutions these rules are less strict;
- grants within the framework of cultural agreements. The Netherlands has agreements with about 40 countries, among which the EC member states.

Foreign EC students

For foreign EC transfer students it is very difficult to obtain financial support from the Dutch government. Exceptions are made for foreign EC students with national qualifications, only if they are already permanent residents of the Netherlands and satisfy several other conditions. Furthermore, if a foreign EC student want to enrol in a Dutch higher education institution and obtain a national grant, he should have a residence permit for an unlimited duration. In this case the foreign EC student is always entitled to a grant. This

[1] In April 1991 the Dutch Parliament decided to reduce this period from six to five years ("Nader gewijzigd voorstel tot wet d.d. 16 april 1991", published in Staatsblad 21889 nr. 235) At the moment the Minister of Education and Science is considering giving students in applied sciences a grant for 5.5 years, as these studies are considered to be particularly difficult and the labour market clearly indicates a shortage of graduates in this sector.

category in practice covers many of the second and third generation "allochtonen", children from immigrant workers.
There are some types of scholarships available to foreign EC students for short periods of advanced study. These are granted within the framework of cultural conventions or exchange programmes between the Netherlands and other countries. Application must be made in the student's home country.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Foreign EC students are not required to have a temporary residence permit. After arriving in the Netherlands they should request a residence permit from the local police. To be eligible for this permit the student must:

- hold a valid national passport;
- be registered in a full-time course of study;
- have proof of sufficient funds to cover study and living expenses (about FL 13,000 a year);
- be insured for medical costs.

Foreign students from EC member states do not need a work permit.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

In the Netherlands students are not automatically insured for medical expenses when they register at a higher education institution. Students will have to provide for this themselves. Proof of having health insurance is a requirement for receiving a residence permit.
Most national health insurance packages within the European Community are valid in the Netherlands. A foreign EC student nevertheless has to ask his health insurance company for a statement which proves that his medical expenses in the Netherlands are covered. This form is called an E 111 or E 112. If necessary a medical insurance can be arranged upon arrival. The SSGZ Insurance Company offers a package for foreign students. The costs amount to about FL 60 a month.

9. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in the Netherlands is estimated at about FL 13,000 a year. The NUFFIC advises a minimum amount of FL 13,500 for study and living expenses. The University of Amsterdam gives FL 12,500 as a guideline for foreign students. It is difficult to manage on less, and the Dutch government might not permit a student to stay in the Netherlands in order to study if he does not have at least this amount.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Except for the University of Twente, none of the Dutch universities has on-campus accommodation facilities. This means that students must find their own living accommodation. Rooms can be rented through special organisations, called "Stichting Studentenhuisvesting", connected with the universities. Because they have long waiting lists, these organisations must be contacted well in advance of a student's arrival.
In Leiden foreign EC students pay higher rents for these rooms than the Dutch students. This situation is caused by the fact, that the rooms for foreigners are furnished, the higher risk of a room being unoccupied, and the fact that the accommodation is not subsidised.
In the Netherlands there is a new project called "ROOF". Through ROOF, Dutch students going abroad sublet their rooms to foreign EC students coming to the Netherlands. This system is relatively cheap and the foreign EC student lives among Dutch students in a Dutch house. The project is a big success and the students are very enthusiastic.
Finally, some students we spoke with complained about the fact that they had to sign a Dutch contract, which they could not read. The rents vary between FL 350 and FL 530 a month.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

There are no rules or regulations concerning the academic and social guidance of foreign students on a national level.
The foreign EC students we spoke to in the Netherlands complained about the fact that the information they could get at their home institutions on the Dutch higher education system and their possibilities was insufficient. They all seemed satisfied with the academic and social guidance in the Netherlands. With respect to the social guidance the Erasmus Student Network plays an important role (mentor-system). On the other hand a lot of foreign EC exchange students do not seem to integrate in Dutch student life and society. In Leiden for example a lot of them follow an international law course in English and live in a special university house for foreign students. They do not speak any Dutch and do not mix with Dutch students in every day life.
The (temporary) student card gives foreign EC students the same reductions as Dutch students. There is, however, one exception. Dutch students do not have to pay for public transport. They receive a so-called "OV-studentenjaarkaart". In exchange their monthly grant is deducted. Foreign EC students have to pay for public transport.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

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- V. Piket, "Nederland als land van bestemming voor buitenlandse studenten" in: U en H 37 (1990-91:3).
- Information brochure Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC).
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- Professional upgrading in the Netherlands. Path to the future (NUFFIC).
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- Brochure: the Erasmus student Network.
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- Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: Programme introduction days foreign students (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: Intensive Dutch courses 1991.
- Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: General information for Erasmus/exchange students (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: Erasmus Programme Biological Sciences (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: Uitwisselingsprogramma's scheikunde. Informatieboekje voor scheikundestudenten (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht: Utrechters naar het buitenland. Mogelijkheden voor studenten en afgestudeerden (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht: Utrecht Network 1990/1991.
- Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht: Welcome to Utrecht. Information for foreign students (1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht: "X-change" 2 (publication ESN Utrecht 1990).
- Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht: Evaluation of foreign students at Utrecht University (Erasmus Student Network 1990).
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- Rijksuniversiteit Limburg: Studying in the Netherlands in an international environment.
- Delft University of Technology: Studying at Delft University of Technology. Practical information on admission procedures (1991).

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for the Netherlands

February 19: Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen, Directoraat-Generaal Hoger Onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Zoetermeer
- Mrs. mr. R.C.J.M. Broekmeulen
- Mr. P. van Ooijen
- Mr. R. Jansen; Eurydice

February 20 and
March 25: NUFFIC, The Hague
- Mr. M. Oomen

February 28: HBO Council, The Hague
- Mr. C.J.G. Gageldonck; international relations

March 11: Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Leiden
- Mr. drs. H.L. Hendrix; coordinator of education and research, faculty of arts

March 19: Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Leiden
- Mrs. M. Kempe; foreign office

February 6 and
March 19: Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, Leiden
- foreign students from Germany, Italy, the UK and France

March 15: Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, Utrecht
- Mr. E. Löffler; Erasmus Student Network

March 27: Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, Utrecht
- Mrs. K. van Kammen; international relations
- foreign students from the UK and Spain

PORTUGAL

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

The capacity of the higher education system in Portugal is still limited, even for Portuguese students. Because of this, Portugal has numerus clausus regulations for all subject areas and public institutions. The limited capacity also influences the number of places open to foreign students. The majority of foreign students come from former Portuguese colonies in Africa and South America. Only a limited number originates from EC-member states.

National students

There are both public and private universities and other higher education (polytechnic) institutions. The following entry procedures refer to public institutions only. The requirements that give access to higher education for Portuguese students can be divided into four categories. First of all the student needs a twelve year school leaving-certificate. Secondly he has to pass a general entry examination, called the "Prova Geral de Acesso" (PGA). The PGA tests the listening comprehension and capacity for expression in the Portuguese language and determines the cultural and intellectual level of the student. The examination does not reject prospective students, but allocates them in order of their achievement. Furthermore, for most studies it is required to have done certain subjects during the last three years of secondary education. Finally in some cases the student has to pass special subject-related examinations, the "provas específicas".

The four elements of these entry requirements result in a number of marks. These marks are used in certain specified proportions to calculate one final mark for the numerus clausus system. These proportions differ per subject area. The demands for all courses at all public institutions are published in the "Guia do Acesso ao Ensino Superior". This guide produces the requirements long in advance (at this moment for 1993) to give prospective students the opportunity to prepare themselves at their secondary school and choose the right subjects.

This elaborate system can be illustrated by an example. Students who want to study civil engineering at the University of Porto have to meet the following requirements. Apart from the school leaving-certificate and the general entry examination, they must have done physics, chemistry and mathematics in their tenth and eleventh year, and physics and mathematics in their twelfth year. Finally they have to pass a special examination in mathematics. The proportion in which all their results count for the final mark is as follows: PGA 25%, results of the 10th and 11th grade 12.5%, results of the 12th grade 12.5%, and the special mathematics examination 50%.[1]

When the applicant has met all the entry requirements, he sends a list with the institutions of his preference (probably three) to the national clearing house, called the "Gabinete Coordenator do Ingresso no Ensino Superior" (GCIES). The GCIES distributes the applications to the institutions. Acceptance of the students depends on their final results and the number of places available at the institution. The number of places depends on the capacity of the institution. In future this central distribution system will probably

[1] Guia do Acesso ao Ensino Superior, 1993.

disappear as a consequence of the law of 1988 on the autonomy of the higher education institutions.

The requirements for access to private higher eduction institutions are different. Like in the public system the students have to have a school leaving-certificate and have to pass the general entry examination. But, apart from that, the institutions are free to stipulate additional requirements from the students. At the Universidade Católica Portuguesa the certificate and the PGA can be replaced by an "ano propedêutico", to be followed at the university after the eleventh year of education.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

Foreign nationals, with a Portuguese secondary school leaving-certificate are treated in the same way as the Portuguese themselves.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students, wanting to do a full course or finish a course in Portugal, are treated differently. The law that provides the framework for these regulations dates from 1984 and is out of date. There are special numerus clausus regulations for transfer students. Every institution reserves a very small number of places for them. The number is determined each year by the different faculties, on the basis of their capacity and the number of Portuguese applicants. In practice the quota is never more than 2%. Before being admitted to a Portuguese higher education institution, transfer students have to get an equivalence of the certificates from their home country.

Foreign EC exchange students

Portugal has two types of foreign EC exchange students: Erasmus students and students within bilateral agreements between two institutions or professors. These students do not have to meet any of the formal entry requirements. Selection is done by the home institution and is based on the mutual trust between the two parties involved. The numerus clausus regulations do not apply to this category of foreign students. The only limitation that might exist for them is a limited number of places within the ICP or bilateral agreement. The exchange students do not have to pass any entry examination.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

Portugal applies the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities of 1953. It has no bilateral agreements with other European Community Member States.The recognition of foreign diplomas, degrees and periods of study is always a decision of the relevant institution itself.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students need equivalence of their certificates and periods of study. Foreign EC students who want to follow a complete course at a Portuguese higher education institution, have to get the secondary school leaving-certificate of their home country recognised. The recognition is the responsibility of the "Direcçao-geral do ensino

básico e secundário". Foreign EC students who want to continue and complete their studies in Portugal have to be enrolled at a higher education institution in their home country. Furthermore they must already have completed two years of higher education at home. To get an equivalence of their certificates and periods of study they have to go through the following procedure. First of all they have to write to the "Gabinete Coordenador do Ingresso no Ensino Superior". This institute checks the formal papers and certificates of the foreign EC transfer student and decides whether he satisfies all official requirements. If this is the case, the application goes to the relevant institution. The faculty or department concerned subsequently evaluates the student's certificates and periods of study and decides on the level at which the student may enter the Portuguese higher education system.
For example two Spanish students from the University of La Coruña, interviewed during our research, wanted to continue their study of architecture at the University of Porto. In La Coruña they had already completed the three years plus some fourth and fifth year courses. The department of architecture of Porto University however decided that the Spanish students should enter the course in the second year, because the structure of the Portuguese programme was completely different from the Spanish one. Of course this was a big disappointment for the students, but they could understand Porto's arguments.

Foreign EC exchange students
Foreign EC exchange students do not need any equivalence of certificates. The recognition of their period of study abroad and the equivalence of their marks seldom lead to problems, because these matters are well arranged between the coordinators of the ICPs or bilateral programmes. The Erasmus students themselves agree upon this.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

There are no strict rules for application and registration at higher education institutions in Portugal. The universities, however, have a uniform registration procedure.

Foreign EC transfer students
The application and registration of foreign EC transfer students is relatively easy. They have to fill in an application form in Portuguese and attach the relevant documents. These documents can be certificates, diplomas or other proof of credit points that transfer students already obtained in their home country. In some cases these documents have to be translated.

Foreign EC exchange students
The procedures for Erasmus students are very simple. The responsible coordinators take care of the application and registration of the student. The student himself does not have to fill in any forms. The only document he has to present is the contract that is drawn up for him within the Erasmus programme. The time span involved is very short.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Up until now all courses and lectures in Portugal are held in Portuguese. In general the policy of the higher education institutions is to keep it like that. However the Universidade Técnica of Lisbon is planning to offer an English course in business studies.
Although there are no official language requirements or proficiency test for foreigners who want to study in Portugal, a good knowledge of the language is expected if a foreign student wants to participate in lectures and classes.
Foreign students, wanting to learn or improve the Portuguese language, can follow language courses in several Portuguese cities. These courses are not free, but in general the costs are relatively low. In some cases Erasmus students do not have to pay these fees. In cities like Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra students can choose between summer courses, intensive and normal language courses.
The language forms one of the most important barriers in relation to the influx of foreign students. The language problem also explains why a relatively large number of foreign students in Portugal study at a post-graduate level: they do not have to follow courses in Portuguese and can communicate with the professor supervising their research in English or French.

5. TUITION FEES

National students
Students at public higher education institutions in Portugal have to pay minimal tuition fees. The fees for one academic year amount to ESC 2,000. For enrolment to one individual course the student pays ESC 100. Students studying at a private institution have to pay much more: about ESC 25,000 - ESC 30,000 per month.

Foreign EC students
Foreign EC students pay the same amounts as their Portuguese counterparts. Of course, Erasmus students are exempted from paying tuition fees.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students
Portugal has a limited grant system. The Ministry of Education supplies the universities with a certain amount of money every year. The universities decide for themselves how much money they reserve for a grant system. The grants are very small and restricted to a limited number of students without any means. The University of Porto, for example, has 18,000 students of whom only 1,805 receive a grant.
Portuguese students, studying for a master's or doctorate degree can apply for grants at two institutions: the INIC (Instituto Nacional de Investigação Cientifica) and the JNICT (Junta Nacional de Investigação Cientifica e Tecnologica). Their grants cover study in Portugal and abroad.

Foreign EC students

Foreign EC students can apply for a Portuguese grant and exemption from tuition fees on the same terms as Portuguese students. There are however two conditions. The students have to originate from a country that has a bilateral cooperation agreement with Portugal. Furthermore the country of origin of the foreign EC student has to offer a Portuguese student the same opportunities.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

According to the Ministry of Education a foreign EC student, wishing to study in Portugal, has to go to the Portuguese consulate in his home country to fill in a form. This form contains questions on the purpose and length of the stay and the Portuguese residence of the student. If the student has been awarded a grant, he has to show the notice of approval and the period for which the scholarship has been granted. If the foreign EC student has no grant, he has to provide proof of adequate financial means for the duration of his study in Portugal.[1]

According to staff members of the universities of Lisbon and Porto, foreign EC students have to apply for a residence permit, if they are staying in Portugal for longer than three months. An exception is probably made for the UK, because of special bilateral agreements between the UK and Portugal.
Foreign EC students have to apply for a permit at least four months in advance at the Portuguese consulate in their home country. The documents required are:

- passport or identity card;
- medical certificate;
- proof of sufficient financial means;
- proof of good behaviour;
- proof of accommodation in Portugal;
- statement on the reasons for their stay in Portugal;
- three passport photographs.

The two Spanish transfer students in Porto return to Spain every three months to avoid having to apply for a residence permit. According to them it is very difficult to get such a document.
The Erasmus students, interviewed for this research, did not have to make any arrangements concerning entry and residence. At the Universidade Tecnica of Lisbon it was stated that in practice foreign EC students never apply for a residence permit.

[1] Formalidades de entrada e de estadia, Ministerio da Educação e Cultura, Direcção-Geral do Ensino Superior (November 1990).

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Foreign EC students, who have health insurance in their home country, can take this insurance with them to Portugal through an E 111 or E 110 form. The University of Porto however, recommends private insurance, because this is much better.
Students from the UK and possibly also France receive free medical care on account of bilateral agreements between their countries and Portugal. Finally, the bigger higher education institutions have their own medical facilities for students.

9. COST OF LIVING

There are no indications of major regional differences of the cost of living in Portugal. According to the University of Lisbon a student has to have ESC 50,000 per month for basic needs. The University of Porto advises a minimum amount of ESC 70,000 per month.

10. ACCOMMODATION

In Portugal there are three types of accommodation to be found. Universities have a limited number of rooms in halls of residence. Secondly, the social offices of the institutions rent private flats for their students. And finally there is of course the private market.
The costs of housing vary. A room in a private flat, rented by the university will cost about ESC 20,000 - 30,000 per month. A room in a hall of residence is cheaper. The Social Services of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa reserve some rooms in their halls of residence for Erasmus students. The rent is ESC 10,500 per month. Renting on the private market on the other hand, is much more expensive. The foreign students we spoke with in Porto, paid between 60,000 and 75,000 per month for a furnished apartment. Although finding accommodation is a big problem in Portugal, even for national students, most foreigners find suitable lodgings in the end.
Housing for foreign EC exchange students introduces two specific problems. Many landlords do not want to let a room for a period of less than one academic year, because this is not so lucrative. And secondly, a lot of the exchange students arrive in the middle of the academic year, when all cheap rooms have already been rented by Portuguese students. Still, if short-term exchange students apply for a room in advance, they will in most cases have accommodation upon arrival.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

Portugal does not have any rules or regulations concerning the academic and social guidance of foreign students on a national level. In the case of short-term exchange students, academic guidance is given by the responsible coordinator of the programme (Erasmus or bilateral). The transfer students receive the same academic guidance as the Portuguese students.

Because the number of foreign students in Portugal is still very limited, the institutions for higher education do not have special social facilities for foreigners. Foreign students can of course join the student associations of the different institutions. If there are problems they can go to the social office of the institution, just like the Portuguese students. Some universities plan to offer the foreign students more specialised social guidance in the near future. For example, the international relations bureau of Porto University is working on an information brochure and wants to organise introduction days. Finally foreign students get a reduction on public transport and cultural activities on presentation of their student card.

Students, planning to go to Portugal can apply for initial information at the Portuguese diplomatic representation in their home country or write to the Portuguese Ministry of Education or the "Gabinte Coordenador do Ingresso ao Ensino Superior (GCIES).

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Higher education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in 12 countries. The student handbook (Brussels 1990:6).
- Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions (NARIC, Brussels).
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- Ministério da Educaçao, Direcçao-Géral do Ensino Superior:
  - Acesso ao ensino superior em Portugal.
  - Informaçoes aos candidatos estrangeiros que pretendam ingressar no ensino superior público Português.
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- Erasmus. Serviços sociais da universidade técnica de Lisboa.
- Instituto politécnico de Lisoba: anuário 1990/91.
- Brochure The New University of Lisbon.
- Brochure Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon.
- Brochure Universidade Aberta.
- Brochure Universidade do Porto.
- Fundaçao Gomes Teixeira, Universidade do Porto.
- Boletim, Universidade do Porto, 1-6.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for Portugal

May 14: Agência Nacional de Administraçao de Bolsas (NGAA), Ministério da Educaçao, Lisbon
- Mrs. Maria Gabriela Bragança

May 14: Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Lisbon
- Prof. Lopes da Silva - vice president
- Mrs. Maria de Lourdes Afonso - Erasmus
- Mrs. Maria de Ferur - social services

May 15: Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa, Lisbon
- Prof. Helder C. Reis Videira - president
- Prof. Maria Teresa Maximo - head of Erasmus programmes

May 16: Universidade do Porto, Serviçio de Informaçao e Relaçoes Internacionais, Porto
- Prof. Rocha Pereira - administrator
- Mrs. Maria Carvalho Dias - international relations
- students from Spain and Denmark

THE UNITED KINGDOM

I.G. Dillo

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

The United Kingdom has four kinds of further and higher education institutions. The longest established are the universities. The universities are autonomous, self-governing bodies. They receive government funding for teaching and general research through the Universities Funding Council (UFC). The United Kingdom also has a number of polytechnics (central institutions in Scotland). Universities and polytechnics have strong links with industry and commerce and the latter group offer considerable sub-degree provision. Until recently the polytechnics were controlled by local education authorities (LEAs). Now they are also autonomous and receive funding through the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council (PCFC). A third category is formed by the higher education colleges. These are more locally oriented than the universities and polytechnics. Most of these are now autonomous and are funded by the PCFC. Finally, further education colleges offer some higher education courses, but concentrate mainly on sub-HE level education and training for sixteen year olds and upwards. FE colleges are funded by LEAs.
The universities can award degrees on their own authority (by act of parliament or by royal charter). Consistency of standards is maintained by a system of external examiners drawn from other institutions. Polytechnics' awards have been validated by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA). Under proposals recently put forward by government in the White Paper "Higher Education: A New Framework", the polytechnics and possibly some higher education colleges will also be able to award their own degrees. The UFC and PCFC will be merged and all higher education institutions will receive funding through the same channel. At the same time further education colleges will be removed from LEA control and will be funded through the new FE Funding Councils.

National students

Higher education institutions determine their own entry requirements. In theory and in practice it is possible to enter higher education without any formal qualification. This may apply, for example, to an adult with a lot of working experience. There are no legal based minimum requirements on a national level. However, all higher education institutions are selective and generally make conditional offers of places, not simply on numbers of examination passes but on grades of passes. The requirements are expressed mainly in terms of passes in United Kingdom examinations such as those for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level (A level), or vocational qualifications. For statistical purposes, young people with two A levels are counted as "qualified leavers" but the number of A levels or other qualifications required depends largely on the popularity of the institution or the subject. In practice three A levels (or a combination of A and Advanced Supplementary (AS) levels) are often required by universities, while entry to PCFC institutions is more diverse and includes significant numbers with vocational qualifications. Furthermore, there are usually specific course requirements. Students are selected by individual departments.

Only Oxford has an additional entry examination. Cambridge abolished its entry examination in the mid 1980s and Oxford confines it to pre-A level candidates because of growing

concern that this examination favoured pupils from private schools, which typically have better facilities for instruction for it.

Personal interviews are common, though they are not a universal entry requirement. In some cases the purpose of the interview is to test the choice of the student.

Every institution decides for itself the number of students it will admit, except in medicine and Initial Teacher Training, where targets are set by the government. Decisions by institutions are based on their capacity and the quality of applicants. In this way one can speak of a numerus clausus system, although the expansion in the 1980s has not revealed any major capacity constraints. The higher education institutions have two main ways of obtaining teaching funds: through grant funding from the UFC or PCFC and through student fees. They can also attract private funding. UFC and PCFC funding is going down as a proportion of the total, and fee income is becoming more important, as a result of transfer of public funds from grant to publicly-funded fees. Because of this development institutions are becoming more dependent on student fees. They will have to attract more students and this will work against numerus clausus tradition. The government wants to continue the expansion of higher education in the United Kingdom: participation has already increased from 1 in 8 in 1979 to 1 in 5 today, and is projected to reach nearly 1 in 3 by 2000.

Foreign EC students with national qualifications

With respect to entry examinations and limitations, foreign nationals who hold a British secondary school leaving-certificate, are treated like British students. However, to receive full-time education with grants and fees they have to have been ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom for three years or more. EC nationals resident elsewhere within the Community for at least three years will have their fees paid in accordance with the Treaty of Rome, but they will not receive a maintenance award.

Foreign EC students

A major difficulty of the United Kingdom in relation to student mobility is the huge imbalance between the number of incoming and outgoing students as between the UK and the EC. In 1989/1990 there were 78,000 foreign students in the UK (71,000 in higher education), of whom almost 20,000 were from the European Community, compared with 15,000 in 1988/1989. Of these 20,000, 4,000 came from West-Germany, 3,500 from France and Greece, 2,000 from Spain and 900 from the Netherlands. The number of outgoing students to the EC is much lower. Language skills are an important factor in this, but other considerations also apply: for example, the support available in personal and academic matters and accommodation make the UK an attractive host country.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students, wanting to follow a complete course of study in the United Kingdom, must provide evidence to the institution that their education has qualified them to follow a course leading to a degree and that they speak and understand English. Having these qualifications, they do not have an automatic right to a place at a British higher education institution. Entry is competitive and the final decision is up to the institution

concerned. All institutions consider the admission of transfer students on a case by case basis.

Foreign EC exchange students

The British NGAA in Canterbury distinguishes three types of foreign EC exchange students in the United Kingdom. First of all there are students who come to the UK on an individual basis.

There is a substantial number of one-year students in the UK. These students come from all parts of the world, particularly from the USA and Japan. They pay full-cost fees and are actively recruited by UK institutions. They apply directly to the institutions and are accepted on the basis of their references and qualifications of the home country. The category of "free movers" (the ERASMUS term for students receiving ERASMUS support outside an ICP) does not pay tuition fees. The foreign EC short-term free floaters and free movers on the other hand, apply directly to the institution and pay fees, although these are usually reimbursed under special arrangements. In the past a significant number of Erasmus free movers have come from Italy and Greece. This is now changing with the increasing number of ICPs involving Italian and Greek higher education institutions. A lot of more privately funded, short-term free floaters come from Germany, sponsored either by the DAAD or their regional government or university.

The second type of student is the exchange student, who comes to the United Kingdom for modern language studies. In most cases the stay abroad (one year) is a compulsory part of the study programme. Many universities have special bilateral agreements for these exchanges. In general these exchanges are much older than the Erasmus programme, but the agreements are adapted more and more in line with the Erasmus scheme. This is in the interest of higher education institutions elsewhere in the EC, insofar as in the past they may have paid fees to UK institutions. Sometimes the exchange is very formal, in other cases it is not. The students are accepted on nomination by the home institution.

Finally there are of course the Erasmus students. Their selection is the responsibility of the home institution. The selection criteria are marks, language ability and personality. The best ICP's have very precise selection procedures.

2. RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN CERTIFICATES, DEGREES AND PERIODS OF STUDY

There are no specific agreements between the United Kingdom and other Member States, though each university or matriculation authority generally has a wide list of equivalences applying to candidates seeking admission to various levels of study. Because of the differences in the pattern of secondary education and examination, and the length of the first degree course between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom, practice varies between the two systems, which also have a mutual recognition practice through various domestic authorities. The United Kingdom's universities normally apply the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities.

Recognition and equivalence are matters dealt with by the institutions themselves. They

receive guidance from the National Academic Recognition Centre (NARIC) and the British Council for the general overview.[1]

In the United Kingdom the issue of recognition causes a lot of problems, due to the fact that the British education system is so different from the continental systems. The degree courses are shorter, more intensive and very specialised. Furthermore the starting level in the UK is much higher, because during the last two years of secondary education the pupils specialise in only three A-level subjects. In practice this means that the last two years of secondary education are equal to the first year of higher education in many other countries, for instance France. This situation makes equivalence of certificates and degrees very difficult.

Many outgoing British students have problems with the recognition of degree courses in France. Incoming foreign EC students on the other hand, meet with difficulties concerning the so-called "double degrees". French students for example, doing a degree course in the United Kingdom, do not get their master's degree, because they remain registered at a French higher education institution. Instead of a master's degree they only receive a British diploma.

At the end of each academic year many foreign EC exchange students request recognition of credits. At Glasgow University the academic advisor gives proof in writing with detailed information on the courses followed by the foreign student. There is no overall quality control and everything is done individually. Still, both Glasgow University and King's College London stated that the recognition of periods of study generally does not cause many problems. Foreign EC students at both institutions confirmed this. Still, NGAA reports from students indicate that they are concerned about the recognition and the weight attached to their period of study in the host institution. This is particularly true if they have done rather well during their period away.

3. APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

National students

National students wishing to study as an undergraduate at a university have to apply at a central office, called the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA). UCCA acts as a clearing house. For the polytechnics and some colleges of higher education the applications are handled by the Polytechnics Central Admission System (PCAS). Students can apply for four (PCAS) or five (UCCA) institutions of their choice. If a student is not lucky in the first round, he automatically enters the second round. UCCA and PCAS main scheme requires applications to be received by the 15 December prior to the academic year for which entry is sought. Applications can be made later - up to 26 May - and later still direct to Clearing. Most students who apply by December receive unconditional or conditional offers by Easter.

Foreign EC transfer students

Foreign EC transfer students also have to apply through this clearing house system, just like the British students. The application form they have to complete is in English.

[1]Though autonomous, NARIC is an arm of the British Council.

According to the Department of Education and Science, the higher education institutions ask financial guarantees both from foreign EC and non-EC students. Although foreign EC students do not have to pay full-cost fees, the present level of the home fees gives cause for such guarantees. The specific amount depends on the fees to be paid.

Foreign EC exchange students

Foreign EC exchange students, coming to the United Kingdom on their own initiative, do not go through the clearing house system. They register directly at the institution. If it concerns foreigners from outside the EC they have to supply financial guarantees.

The application and registration of foreign EC language exchange students is done through a relevant office in the department concerned. Erasmus students apply through the respective ICP-coordinators. The application of language and Erasmus students is relatively easy. There are few formalities involved and the students do not need many documents (a course list, references, academic plans of the student). The language in which the students have to apply is English.

The exchange students we spoke with confirmed that the application and registration procedure did not cause any problems.

4. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The United Kingdom does not have any official language requirements on a national level. Many higher education institutions demand a proficiency test or other proof of the student's language ability. Foreign EC transfer students, wanting to study at Glasgow University, for example need to have taken the British Council ELTS Test or the Cambridge proficiency exam. King's College London does not have any official procedures. In its Overseas Students' Handbook the college states that it is essential to have a sufficient command of English to follow a course. In case of doubt the college advises the student to take the British Council ELTS Test and to attend a language course.

According to the Department of Education and Science the organisation of English language courses could be better and more systematic in both sending and receiving institutions. The NGAA takes the view that the United Kingdom offers many good language courses, but they are very expensive because they are not subsidised. A pre-sessional course of twelve weeks (25 hours a week) at King's College London costs £ 1,275. At Glasgow University the same language course costs £ 1,200. Pre-entry courses in Glasgow vary according to the length and intensity of the course, but the tuition fee for a course of 21 hours per week is £ 100.

For most foreign EC students in the United Kingdom the language is not a major problem. For outgoing British students on the other hand, the language inability is one of the biggest barriers.

5. TUITION FEES

The United Kingdom has two types of tuition fees: home fees and full cost fees. National students pay the home fees. In 1990/1991 these were £ 1,675 for most courses. In

1991/1992 a differentiated fee structure is introduced, with fees banded in three categories according to the content of the course. Foreign students from EC-countries pay the same tuition fees as British students. Foreign non-EC students have to pay full cost fees. It is the policy of the British government that these students should pay the full cost of their studies. Some representative bodies - such as the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) and the Council of Local Education Authorities (CLEA) - recommend minimum fee levels for foreign students. Each institution sets its own fee, which may be equal to, higher or, in some cases, lower than the level recommended by its professional body. The full cost fees vary, depending on the subject, from about £ 5,000 - 6,000 up to over £ 11,000 (medicine) per annum.

Minimum recommended tuition fees for the year 1990/1991[1]

		Universities
Students from non-EC member countries	Arts degree courses	£ 4,560
	Science degree courses, including preclinical years of medicine, dentistry and veterinary science	£ 6,050
	Clinical years of courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science	£ 11,150
Students from EC member countries	Undergraduate fees for all courses	£ 1,675
	Postgraduate fees	£ 1,985
The Council of Local Education Authorities sets the minimum fees for advanced and non-advanced further education.		Colleges
Students from non-EC member countries	Advanced further education (i.e. first degrees, BTEC HNDs and other advanced courses. Non-advanced further education (i.e. courses at a level below HND)	£ 4,563 £ 1,675
Students from EC member countries*	Postgraduate Undergraduate and equivalent Non-advanced further education	£ 1,985 £ 1,675 £ 489
Polytechnics: from 1990/91 onwards there are no longer recommended minimum fees for Polytechnics.		

Normally the British undergraduate student does not have to pay the fee himself. It is paid directly to the college or university by the Local Education Authority (LEA) concerned.

Since 1986 the course fees for all eligible foreign EC undergraduate students have been reimbursed under a scheme run for the Department of Education and Science by the Local Education Authorities. This scheme was established to meet the UK's obligation under EC law, following the decision of the European Court of Justice in the 1985 Gravier-case, that a national of an EC Member State was entitled under the terms of the Treaty of

[1]Studying and living in Britain 1991, page 9.

Rome to have access to courses of higher education on the same basis as for nationals of the host state.[1]

Therefore, foreign students from EC countries can have their tuition fees paid for them by the UK authorities, provided they satisfy eligibility conditions similar to those which must be met by UK students who qualify to have their fees paid under the UK mandatory awards system. There are five conditions to be met:

- the student must be a national of an EC country, or the child of an EC national;
- the student must have been ordinarily resident in an EC country (or more than one such country) for the three years immediately prior to the start of the course for which he is claiming help with fees;
- the student must not be receiving or be entitled to a LEA mandatory or discretionary award which includes the payment of maintenance or an award from the Scottish Education Department, from the Department of Education Northern Ireland or a Local Education and Library Board in Northern Ireland or from the Department of Health;
- the student must not have previously attended a course of higher education which has as its normal duration a length of more than two years and for which the student has received UK statutory funding;
- the student must be attending a full-time or sandwich course which has been designated for mandatory awards purposes.

National and foreign EC students attending the following courses are entitled to payment of their fees by LEAs:

- full-time or sandwich courses maintained or assisted by recurrent grants out of public funds:
  - first degree courses;
  - diploma of higher education courses;
  - courses for the Higher National Diploma of the Business and Technician Education Council;
  - courses of initial teacher training.
- part-time courses of initial teacher training designated by the Secretary of State.
- full-time or sandwich courses comparable to first degree courses:
  - courses of at least three years' duration provided by a university for a certificate or diploma;
  - other courses designated by the Secretary of State for this purpose.

In England and Wales applications for fee reimbursement from foreign EC transfer students are handled either by the LEA in whose area the student lives, or by the LEA in whose area the higher education institution is situated. Fee payment for foreign EC exchange students is handled by the appropriate LEA.

Foreign EC exchange students, attending only part of a British course, have to obtain an application form from the institution concerned. Under the Erasmus programme the home institution can continue to charge the tuition fee when the student is abroad. The scheme is supposed to be reciprocal, ie. equal numbers to and fro, because otherwise the institution which receives more students than it sends will, in resource terms, be losing money.

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[1] Letter of the Department of Education and Science to the registrars/admission officers of higher education institutions, August 3 1990.

6. STUDENT GRANTS

National students

Awards for higher education courses are available throughout the United Kingdom. LEAs administer mandatory awards in England and Wales. In Scotland and Northern Ireland the respective education departments administer the awards system. The mandatory student award consists of two elements:

- payment of the tuition fee on the student's behalf;
- grant for maintenance.

The maintenance grant is means-tested. In 1989/1990 76 % of eligible students received a maintenance grant (with no means-tested abatement in about one-third of cases); 24 % received no grant. All eligible students are entitled to full reimbursement of tuition fees.

The standard rates of the maintenance grant for the academic year 1990-1991 are:

- £ 2,265, if a student is living in a hall of residence or in lodgings and studying at a college or other establishment outside London;
- £ 2,845, within the London area;
- £ 1,795, if a student is living at his parents' home[1].

Since the academic year 1990/1991 students have been able to apply for a government-funded student loan. No interest is charged, but the outstanding loan is index-linked. Graduates have to repay only when their salary exceeds a certain specified minimum level. The Loan Scheme is designed not to effect the willingness of potential students to undertake further study. The maximum loan for students living away from home is £ 460 a year for the London area, and £ 420 for the rest of the United Kingdom. Students living at home can get a maximum loan of £ 330.[2]

In future the basic maintenance grant will be held at the 1990/1991 level. The loans element will increase until it is equal to the basic grant. In practice, this means that students, as well as parents and the taxpayer, will contribute towards the cost of their own maintenance. In 1990/1991 only about 30% of eligible students made use of the loan facility. According to the Department of Education and Science this might be explained by the fact that the students do not agree with the loan on principle or that they do not need the extra loan money. Up to this moment this development has not had any influence on the number of students.

If the course of a British student contains a compulsory stay abroad for at least one term the student is eligible for a supplementary grant. The total grant rates are:

- £ 3,425 a year for highest-cost countries, among which Denmark;
- £ 3,080 a year for higher-cost countries, among which Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands;
- £ 2,670 a year for high-cost countries, among which Italy and Luxembourg;
- £ 2,265 a year for all other countries.

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[1] Grants to students. A brief guide 1990-1991 (Department of Education and Science)

[2] Loans for students. A brief guide 1990-1991 (Department of Education and Science)

Foreign EC students

Foreign EC students, studying in the United Kingdom outside EC-programmes, get money from different sources. In most cases the money comes from their parents or national grants, like the German "Bafög".
Sometimes foreign EC students receive a grant from the Local Education Authority or from private funds in the United Kingdom. Lists of scholarships, fellowships, grants etc. for students at or above graduate level are to be found in The grants register (Macmillan Press 1988). British Council Awards to foreign EC students are made for postgraduate study only.

7. ENTRY AND RESIDENCE REGULATIONS

Students from EC countries are admitted to the United Kingdom for a period of six months without any formalities. If they wish to remain in the UK for longer than six months they are required to obtain the permission of the Home Office for an extension of their stay. Students need to provide evidence of their enrolment at a UK higher education institution and evidence that they can support themselves, together with their passport or national identity card. EC nationals automatically have the right to work in the UK, although the institutions themselves will seldom, if ever, allow full time students to "work their way" through college. Until 1 January 1992 Spanish and Portuguese students wishing to work in the UK must first obtain permission from the Department of Employment.
New provisions giving a right of residence to students from EC countries are due to be implemented by the end of June 1992. They will then be eligible to apply for residence permits as confirmation of their status.
None of the foreign EC students, not even the Spanish students we spoke with, made any arrangements concerning entry and residence.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE

Foreign EC students are entitled to treatment from the National Health Service. When they arrive at their place of study students may register with a doctor. Medical treatment under the NHS is free.
Most institutions have access to or provide a student health service with full-time medical staff.

9. COST OF LIVING

The minimum budget for a student living in London is about £ 4,800 a year for basic needs, like rent, heating, lighting, food and fares. London is a very expensive city. The cost of living in the rest of the United Kingdom will be lower.[1]
A lot of foreign students have part-time jobs.

[1]Information from the interviews, the Student Handbook and Vademecum to university reception.

10. ACCOMMODATION

Traditionally British students leave their families when they begin their studies. Only five to ten percent actually live at home or have a home of their own. Therefore the universities maintain a great number of halls of residence. Special accommodation offices administer the university owned residences and offer help to students who want or have to find a room outside the university.[1]

There are two main types of accommodation in the United Kingdom:

- accommodation owned and provided by the college, and often on college premises;
- private accommodation, found either by the student himself or with the help of the college accommodation office (so-called "tied lodgings").

Many higher education institutions try to treat foreigners particularly well. Sixty percent of the foreign students have university accommodation. For example all foreign students, who apply for accommodation at King's College London before May 31st, will be offered a place in a hall of residence. Furthermore, King's College has mutual agreements with universities in Athens, Grenoble and Perugia offering each others' students free housing. Glasgow University has residences within walking distance of the university that are divided into self-catering, self-contained flats mainly for five students. Overseas students get first priority for these residences.

Student accommodation is not directly funded by the government. It is for higher education institutions themselves to decide their own funding priorities, including accommodation, within the total resources at their disposal. Accommodation in the United Kingdom is very expensive, especially in London (three times as much as in the rest of the UK). According to the NGAA, expensive accommodation even influences the number of applications. As the table below shows, accommodation rented in the private sector is expensive relative to a student budget; college-provided halls of residence, where meals are often included, are a better bargain.

Accommodation in London (1990/1991): approximate prices per week[2]

Hall of residence/student hostel with breakfast and evening meal		£ 55
single room, sharing kitchen, bathroom etc.		£ 52
double room, sharing kitchen, bathroom etc.		£ 78
single room with breakfast		£ 51
single room with breakfast and evening meal		£ 66
one bedroom flat		£ 119
two- or more bedroom house or flat	from	£ 150

The shortage of accommodation is not limited to London. Glasgow also has a lack of rooms. Therefore the university cannot guarantee foreign students a room in advance. A number of rooms is now reserved for foreigners, but national students in Glasgow now complain about the priority treatment of overseas students. In Glasgow rents range from

[1] E. Berning, Accommodation of Erasmus students in the Member States of the European Community (München 1991) page 106.

[2] Information for private students from overseas and their sponsors concerning the cost of living in London in 1990/1991 (The London Conference on Overseas Students)

£ 25-30 a week (self catering) to over £ 40, and an increase of fifteen percent is expected.

11. ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL GUIDANCE

As stated earlier, the United Kingdom receives a lot of foreign students. In 1989/1990, Glasgow University for example had 9,073 Scottish students, 1,121 students from elsewhere in the UK, 1,116 overseas students and 236 EC students.[1]

There are no governmental rules or procedures concerning the social and academic guidance of foreign students. But because of the large number of foreigners at British higher education institutions, guidance is well organised and a lot of information is available in writing. Leaflets, brochures and books are available at UKCOSA (UK Council Overseas Student Affairs), the British Council and of course the institutions themselves. Because of the fact that in future tuition fees will become a more important source of income for the institutions, some may redesign their literature with a view to attracting more (foreign) students. Foreign non-EC students of course are most attractive, because they pay full cost fees.

Most British institutions have good social services and a tutorial system for the academic guidance. Glasgow University has academic advisors, who act like a kind of go-between and safety net in case of problems or complaints. They help planning the student's study, transferring credit points, etc. Language difficulties and homesickness are problems with which foreign students are most likely to approach academic advisors.

Speaking with the foreign students themselves, the most important problem seems to be the lack of information on living and study in the United Kingdom at their home institutions. Most of them came to the UK, without knowing anything about life in the United Kingdom or the situation at their host institution.

[1]University of Glasgow. Facts and figures, 1990/1991.

APPENDIX 1 Literature and documents

- Higher education in the European Community. A directory of courses and institutions in the 12 countries. The student handbook 1990 (6th edition).
- Academic recognition of higher education entrance, intermediate and final qualifications in the European Community. Multilateral and bilateral conventions, unilateral decisions (NARIC).
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- Endsleigh: Overseas students' medical insurance (1990).
- Loans for students: a brief guide 1990-1991 (Department of Education and Science 1990).
- Grants to students: a brief guide 1990-1991 (Department of Education and Science 1990).
- Information for private students from overseas and their sponsors concerning the cost of living in London in 1990-1991 (LCOS 1990).
- Students and immigration: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Students and employment: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1989).
- Students, their families and marriage: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1990)
- Guide for employers: Employment of overseas nationals in the UK (1989).
- Guide for employers: Employment of overseas workers in the UK (1989).
- British immigration and visa requirements. Information for visitors and students. Guidance leaflet.
- Leaflet on immigration rules for overseas students.
- Leaflet income support and social security (Department of Social Security 1990).
- Arrangements before travelling: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Arriving in Britain: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Seeking asylum: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Accommodation: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1990).
- Studying and living in Britain 1991.
- Scholarships for overseas students: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1987).
- Financial help: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Course fees and grants: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1989).
- EC-students: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1989).
- Choosing a college: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- Choosing a course: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1988).
- EEC nationals: UKCOSA guidance notes for students.
- EC students: reimbursement of course fees from 1990/1991 (Department of Education and Science 1990).
- Admission procedures for UK universities, polytechnics and publicly financed colleges/institutes of further and higher education.
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- "Government to press for two-year degree courses in: the Independent, 19-04-1991.

- Hospital charges to overseas visitors: patients guide (Department of Health 1991).
- Keeping healthy: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1987).
- Welfare benefits and overseas students: UKCOSA guidance notes for students (1990).
- University of York: A guide for students from Europe.
- Study opportunities at Brighton Polytechnic.
- Brochure: Manchester Polytechnic.
- Brochure: King's College, University of London.
- Undergraduate prospectus, entry 1991. King's College London.
- Postgraduate prospectus, entry 1991. King's College London.
- Overseas student's handbook. King's College London.
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- Social facilities for overseas students: information sheet. King's College London.
- Arriving in Britain/Immigration/Registration with the police: information sheet. King's College London.
- The university of Glasgow: An introduction.
- The university of Glasgow: a visitor's guide.
- University of Glasgow: catalogue of classes, 1990.
- Glasgow University: undergraduate prospectus 1991.
- University of Glasgow: overseas student handbook 1991.
- University of Glasgow: student accommodation.
- University of Glasgow: English language courses for students from overseas.
- University of Glasgow: English and study skills for overseas students, 1991.
- University of glasgow: facts and figures 1990-1991.
- University of Glasgow: university fees and general information for students.
- University of Glasgow: Matriculation and student records code lists (1990/1991).
- Erasmus. Participation by Glasgow University in inter-university cooperation programmes, 1989-1992.
- University of Glasgow: Pre-sessional orientation course for overseas students 1990.

APPENDIX 2 Appointment schedule for the United Kingdom

April 18: Department of Education and Science, London
- Mr. John Street
- Mr. Paul R. Betteridge

April 19: Glasgow University, Glasgow
- Prof. Malcolm C. MacLennan; office for EEC programmes
- Mrs. Patricia C.C. Devlin; office for EEC programmes
- Mr. John Fowler; advisor of studies for EC-students
- Mr. Neil Robertson; registry office
- Mr. John Alexander; office for international programmes
- Mrs. Avril McGregor; office for international programmes
- foreign students from Spain and France

April 22: UK Erasmus Students Grant Council, Canterbury
- Mr. John Reilly
- Mrs. Suzan Slater

April 22: King's College, University of London, London
- foreign students from France and Greece

April 23: King's College, University of London, London
- Prof. C. Barry Cox; assistant principal, Erasmus coordinator
- Prof. Peter Gahan; coordinator biology ICP